

Report of the Committee
on the
Historical Tablet in Buró Hall.
Proc. S. J. Assn. Arts and Sci.
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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION

OF

ARTS AND SCIENCES

EDITED BY

PHILIP DOWELL

ARTHUR HOLLICK, WILLIAM T. DAVIS

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

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[Issued January 17, 1917]

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STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION

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VOL. VI

OCTOBER 1915

PART I, p. 1-66

Report of the Committee Appointed to Investigate and Report Upon the Accuracy of All Dates and Events Entered Upon the Historical Tablet in the Borough Hall¹

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¹ Presented at the meeting of the Association May 21, 1915. See PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 5: 116. Oct. 1914-May 1915.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

At the regular meeting of the Association held on January 17, 1914, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that in view of recent additional information having been received in regard to certain local historical events the president be and is hereby authorized and requested to appoint a committee, of which he shall be a member, to investigate and report upon the accuracy of all dates and events entered upon the historical tablet in the Borough Hall in accordance with the report of the committee of the Association as printed in the PROCEEDINGS, vol. 1, p. 83, November, 1906.

The president appointed as members of the committee Edward C. Delavan, Jr., chairman, Ira K. Morris, and William T. Davis. Mr. Delavan and Mr. Morris declined to serve and George W. Tuttle and Charles G. Hine were subsequently appointed in their places.

Messrs. Delavan and Morris, on account of their large contributions to Staten Island history, were invited to give the committee the benefit of their researches on the historical dates and events under consideration. Mr. Delavan met the committee and greatly aided it in its work. We beg to acknowledge our indebtedness to him. Mr. Morris was unable to meet with the committee at any of its sessions.

The committee has given careful attention to the historical matters referred to it, and reports as follows:

Under date of May 14, 1906, Hon. George Cromwell, president of the borough, wrote to the president of the Association, inviting the Association to make suggestions for the inscriptions on the then proposed historical tablet to be installed in the Borough Hall, and stating that "any suggestions on the subject from your society will be highly appreciated." To this letter the president of the Association replied, under date of May 15, that he would take pleasure in appointing a committee who would thereafter communicate with the borough president directly on the subject.

At the regular meeting of the Association on May 19, 1906, the

president announced that he had appointed a special committee, consisting of Ira K. Morris, William T. Davis, and Dr. Arthur Hollick, to confer with Borough President George Cromwell, on his request, in regard to historical dates and events to be placed on a tablet in the Borough Hall. Mr. Morris at that meeting read a tentative list of such events. The action of the president was approved, and the committee was authorized to confer with Mr. Cromwell with power to determine what events it would be desirable to have inscribed on the tablet.²

A meeting was held by the committee at the borough president's office on July 2, 1906, and on September 19, 1906, a meeting of the committee was called to take action on the report in relation to the tablet, at the borough president's office.

At the regular meeting of the Association on November 17, 1906, Mr. Morris, on behalf of the committee, submitted a report including a list of historical dates and events selected and approved for inscription on the tablet. This list was printed in the PROCEEDINGS of the Association (1: 83. Oct.-Dec. 1906). In the files of the Association, with other papers relating to the subject, are two typewritten lists prepared by the committee: one, a preliminary list, has a great many more dates than those printed in the PROCEEDINGS, and the other, selected and approved after conference with the borough authorities, is in substantial agreement with the list as printed in the PROCEEDINGS. (Several recent dates, apparently not determined at the time when the typewritten copy was prepared, were fixed when printed, and two slight changes were made in the text relating to two events.)

It was ascertained by our committee that no supporting data or explanatory remarks were filed with the report of the 1906 committee, and that the inscriptions on the tablet differed very materially from those approved in the report as printed.

Twenty-six leading dates were given in the report and seventeen were placed on the tablet; but only three precisely as recommended. We are informed, however, that the list was forwarded to the borough president as printed in the PROCEEDINGS.

² PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 1: 56. Jan.-May, 1906.

Mr. Edward C. Delavan, Jr., who questioned the accuracy of some of the dates on the tablet, was given a hearing in the matter by our committee. He placed at our disposal a very complete list of references to documentary records concerning Staten Island, and other historical data involving a large amount of research among sources not hitherto readily available, which we have freely used.

In view of the circumstances above mentioned it was thought best to make an independent examination of such authoritative documents as we could find bearing on the inscriptions, particularly official documents and contemporary accounts, for data on which to base our report. This has been done, and appended to this report are many extracts from original sources and numerous references, in order that members of the Association, and others, may readily refer to the original documents and verify the accuracy of the present report. It is believed that a number of important records are referred to therein which have hitherto been unnoticed, or at least that little use has been made of them. It should also be said that, in the opinion of this committee, no inscription open to reasonable doubt or liable to misconstruction should be inscribed upon the tablet.

The work of drafting the report was, by request of the committee, undertaken and performed by Mr. Tuttle.

The first date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1609. Discovery of Staten Island by Henry Hudson.

It is inscribed on the tablet exactly as selected and approved by the committee of 1906. We have not heard its accuracy questioned and have found satisfactory proof thereof. We think it the right statement in the right place.

The second date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1613. Settlement of Oude Dorp by the Dutch.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved "1613. Settlement of Oude Dorp by Dutch."

We know of no evidence whatever to warrant this statement. We find in reference to 1613, that "none manifested a disposition to settle here until the spring of 1613" (Morris 1: 25). In Wilson's Memorial History of the City of New York, in the table of dates, occurs: "1613. Trading camp established on Manhattan Island," and in O'Callaghan's Register of New Netherland: "1613. Huts constructed on Manhattan Island, and the yacht Restless built there." It has recently been decided (by authorities in the matter) that Manhattan was not settled until May 1626. (Rep. N. Y. Commercial Tercent. Com. 80. 1914.)

As to Oude Dorp, the statement is made that "The summer of 1641 witnessed the commencement of the building of Oude Dorp." (Morris 1: 32.)

It may be seen, on consulting the appendix to this report, that at this time (1641) Cornelis Melyn had been made Patroon and had settled on Staten Island (1).³ We know of no evidence to connect his colony with Oude Dorp, although he may have located not far away, as he was "to go upon the point of Staten Island where the maize land lay," and soldiers were to be placed there to signal to the fort at New Amsterdam when vessels arrived (2). The few settlers previous to 1662 lived on farms or bouweries and we find little evidence of village life. In 1662 Director Stuyvesant wrote that Melyn's lands had been abandoned for seven years (3).

Stuyvesant writes in 1664: "A hamlet not yet named was begun on Staten Island about two years ago, and has now about 12 to 14 families of Dutch and French from the Palatinate; it lies about half an hours walk from the Narrows" (4).

On January 28, 1664, a Court of Justice was established at the recently begun village on Staten Island (5).

Grants of land made in 1668 refer to lots on the hill to the east of the Town (6), while in 1685 a survey of these same lots de-

³ References to authorities, numbered as above, may be found at the end of the report (see p. 20).

scribes them as being to the east of the Old Town (7), and other lots to the west are described in patents dated 1685 and thereabouts as laid out formerly for lots at the Old Town (8). These grants definitely locate Old Town, in agreement with the location of the "hamlet not yet named" as described by Director Stuyvesant.

In 1667 Governor Nicolls issued a warrant to the inhabitants of the plantation on Staten Island, and a number of other records are to be found indicating that there was only one village on Staten Island at this time (9). The above mentioned hamlet can therefore be identified as The Town, or the Old Town as it became upon the founding of other towns.

We conclude from the records relating to this matter, extracts from which are appended:

That Staten Island was first colonized in 1639 by de Vries (10). This colony was destroyed by the Indians in September 1641 (11), however; but soon after, in November 1641, Cornelis Melyn, who had obtained a grant of all of Staten Island except the bouwerie of de Vries, settled thereon (12).

That the village afterward known as Old Town was begun about 1662 and that it was first known as The Town or The Village. That the name Old Town was probably not used until the laying out of New Dorp about 1670, and that Oude Dorp was only the Dutch expression for Old Town or Old Village.

Mr. J. H. Innes, author of *New Amsterdam and Its People*, and who is an authority on the settlement of New York and vicinity, expressed the opinion some years ago that Old Town was not built until 1662 or 1663 (*City History Club Leaflet No. X: 24. 1908*); and Mr. Edward C. Delavan, Jr., in 1910, wrote a *Documentary History of the Permanent Settlement of Staten Island* (not printed) substantiating this view.

The third date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1624. Local Government established.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved "1624. Civilized Local Government recognized."

J. J. Clute in his *Annals of Staten Island* (p. 14. 1877) states: "The country was organized into a province, a few settlers were sent out, and a form of government was established, with Peter Minuit at its head as Director; this was in the year 1624. In the same year, and probably in the same ship with Minuit, a number of Walloons arrived and settled upon Staten Island; this is the first settlement on the Island of which we have any knowledge." (See also Morris 1: 26.) The authority for these statements is not given, but probably they were taken from O'Callaghan's *History of New Netherland* (1: 101. 1846). They are not supported by any substantial evidence. H. R. Stiles in his *History of the City of Brooklyn* (1: 25. 1869) says: "The statement so often reiterated by our local writers, and even by the historians of our State, that some of the Walloon emigrants of 1623 settled first at Staten Island (O'Callaghan Hist. 1: 101) and afterwards as early as 1624-5 at the 'Waal-bogt' (Brodhead 1: 153, 154) is entirely unsupported by documentary or other reliable evidence. It seems to have originated in faulty traditions and is a misapprehension of an ancient record relating to the daughter of Rapalje, the first settler in the 'Bogt.'"

In O'Callaghan's *Register of New Netherland* we find: "1624. Cornelis Jacobsen May, Director" [of New Netherland, of which Staten Island was a part]. Later critical investigation has furnished the date 1626 for the settlement of "Manhates" and the establishment of government there. (See Rep. N. Y. Commercial Tercent. Com. 80. 1914.) As contemporary accounts show that Staten Island was first colonized in 1639 (10) it could hardly have had, in 1624, local government in the sense we understand it, that is, some form of government of and by people on Staten Island. It is possible that Patroon Melyn, who had large power over his colonists as patroon, had some form of government over his few farmer colonists. We read that he established a Manorial Court in 1650 on Staten Island (13); also that in 1655, in City Hall, New Amsterdam, "Def^t. appeals to his competent Judge on Staten Island" (14).

We think, however, that the proper date when local government was established was Jan. 28, 1664, when an act was passed establishing a court at the recently begun village on Staten Island (Old Town), and appointing David d'Amarex, Piere Billiou, and Walraven Lutten, as Commissaries (5).

The fourth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1650. First church erected . . . by Waldensians.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved "1650. Stony Brook settled by Waldensians. First church on Island, erected at Stony Brook."

The Colonial Records make it evident that there were few people on Staten Island in 1650 (15). Melyn had induced Van der Capellen to send over 70 colonists who arrived in December 1650 (16). This colony increased to 90 souls on eleven bouweries in 1655, when its people were massacred or captured by the Indians (17). We find nothing to show that these colonists were Waldensians, or that they built a church or founded Stony Brook.

From the Dutch Council Minutes, 1656, we learn that there was a population of six or seven persons on Staten Island at that time (18). Nothing has been found to support the date and events cited but much to contradict them. We find Stony Brook mentioned in road records dated 1705 and 1708, but not as a village (19). In a patent dated 1702 the locality is referred to as New Dorp (20). The name Stony Brook appears on no early map of which we are cognizant. Robert Ryder, the surveyor, who knew the island thoroughly, in a manuscript map dated 1670 belonging to the New York Historical Society, of which this Association has a photographic copy, showed Old Town and New Town but did not show Stony Brook. Mr. J. H. Innes, an authority on the settlement of New York and vicinity, doubts "that the Rapaelje family ever settled in Staten Island, or that Waldenses founded Stony Brook, there being no documentary

proof of these statements extant." (City History Club Leaflet No. X: 24. 1908.)

It is impossible to tell from the records available when the first church was erected. The first record of preaching is by Rev. Samuel Drisius, every two months, in 1663-4 (21), probably at Old Town; and the first conveyance of a lot for church purposes that we have been able to find was for a lot at what is now Green Ridge, to the French congregation or church, in 1698 (22). We believe, however, that a church or churches had been built before this time, for the French Church on Staten Island contributed £3, in 1693, for freeing slaves in Salee (23). Miller, in his description of New York in 1695, stated that there was a meeting house in the county of Richmond and that the minister was Doctor Bonrepos (24). Clute (*Annals* 255) states that a church at Stony Brook was erected about 1665, and Morris has given 1658 (25) as the date of the building of the first church at Stony Brook and the founding of the village. We can find, however, no documentary proof of the building of a church at Stony Brook in 1665 or at any time previous thereto.

In a deed dated February 29, 1699, reference is made to "the house that belongs to the Dutch congregation" (26). This house is referred to in several deeds, sometimes as "the Voorleezer's house" (27). It is not certain, however, that the house was used as a church. The earliest record relating to a church building that we have found, except the reference to the meeting house above mentioned, is in a grant dated June 29, 1713, which recites "All that Stone Church called St. Andrews and the Tenement and Lott of whereon it is built" (28).

We conclude that the accuracy of the date and event inscribed cannot be maintained and that they should not be on the tablet.

The fifth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1660. Fresh Kills settled by French Huguenots.

The committee of 1906 approved "1660. Fresh Kill settled by Huguenots."

As the Huguenots were French Protestants, the addition of the word "French" does not seem to limit the statement of the committee.

We have found no evidence to support the date 1660, and from the letters of Stuyvesant from 1650 to 1666 (29), showing the condition of Staten Island, we believe it to be too early. In 1676 quite a number of surveys were filed for grants of land south of the Fresh Kill (30), and in 1698 a lot was conveyed to the French congregation for building a church at what is now Green Ridge (31). We do not find evidence that Fresh Kills was settled before New Dorp, which was laid out about 1670. The date of the filing of the surveys for patents is the only date that we can definitely fix in this matter, and while we believe many of the settlers in this vicinity were Huguenots most of the surveys were made for parties with English names.

We, therefore, consider the date and event too uncertain to be inscribed.

The sixth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1664. Dutch Government supplanted by English.

This is inscribed as selected and approved by the committee of 1906. Its accuracy has not been questioned and we have found abundant evidence in the records to sustain it. The historical importance of the event properly gives it a place on the tablet.

The seventh date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1668. Staten Island separated from New Jersey.

This inscription is precisely as approved by the committee of 1906.

It may be seen by reference to the appended extracts and from references concerning the settlement of Old Town and the event with which we are now dealing, that the Director General and Council of New Netherland exercised authority over Staten Island up to the surrender to the English in 1664 (32), and that there

was no province of New Jersey until that year (33). It may also be seen that Governor Nicolls of New York, previous to the year 1668, had placed Staten Island for the administration of justice in the West Riding of Yorkshire (34), and had confirmed Nicholas Stillwell as constable (35). Governor Carteret of New Jersey claimed Staten Island as a part of New Jersey by virtue of the grant by the Duke of York to Berkeley and Carteret; but this claim was stoutly denied by Nicolls and his successors, who retained their authority over it.⁴

A New Jersey historian sums up the matter as follows: "Although always in the possession of New York, the question of jurisdiction remained a mooted point until 1833, when the water boundary between the two states was established by a commission" (Whitehead, *East Jersey under the Proprietary Governments* 332. 1875).

We, therefore, find that Staten Island was not separated from New Jersey in 1668, nor was Staten Island ever a part of New Jersey. New Jersey, however, when conveyed to Berkeley and Carteret in 1664, and taken possession of by them in 1665, was separated from the territory retained by the Duke of York, which included Staten Island. The inscription is clearly erroneous.

The eighth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1683. Court House erected at Stony Brook (County Seat).

The committee of 1906, however, selected and approved "1683. Stony Brook made County Seat—until 1729. First County Court House, erected at Stony Brook. Organization of Richmond County."

A law was passed November 1, 1683, establishing the County of Richmond, and at the same time an act was passed establishing courts of justice (36). We have not been able to find any record bearing out the statement that in 1683 a courthouse was erected

⁴ See Delavan, E. C. Jr., *The Disputed Claim of the Proprietors of East Jersey to Staten Island*. PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 3: 37. Oct.-Dec. 1909.

at Stony Brook (county seat), and know of no reason for that date, except that the county was established in that year and the administration of justice provided for.

The only references we have found to original records which mention a courthouse at Stony Brook are in Clute's *Annals of Staten Island*, pages 167 and 459. On pages 130 and 168 Clute mentions the discovery of two books containing these records, but their whereabouts is unknown at the present time. Unfortunately Clute's reference, on page 167, to a "Court of Sessions held in the Court House at Stony Brook" (see Appendix, No. 140) leaves us in doubt as to whether these were the formal words used in the original record, or only an inference. It is hoped that these old record books, believed to have been in the county clerk's office, may yet be found and this uncertainty removed.

Of the many original early court records examined we have found none that state in what part of Staten Island courts were held. From an act passed June 27, 1704, and confirmed by the Queen on May 20, 1708, "for the Erecting and Building a County Jaile, and County House, in the County of Richmond," it would appear that there was no courthouse in Richmond County in 1704, for the act recites, "and whereas there is wanting in the said County of Richmond, a County Jaile and County House" (37).

It is not improbable that courts were held at Stony Brook, for Alexander Stuart, innholder, purchased property near Stony Brook in 1707, and was appointed county clerk in 1708 (38). He probably had a house or tavern on the property, where it may have been found convenient to hold court.

Morris (1: 80) states: "There are several records in existence of Court held at Stony Brook. The earliest mention of the Court of Sessions being held in Richmond is dated September 2, 1729. Previous to the erection of a Court House at that place the Courts were held in private houses and taverns, as the following entry will prove," etc.

We conclude from the examination of such facts as we have been able to collect in this matter, that the evidence is too uncer-

tain and contradictory to warrant the placing of the inscription upon the tablet.

We think an inscription "1683. Richmond County established, and Courts of Justice provided," would be a suitable substitute for that on the tablet.

The ninth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1729. County Seat changed to Richmond and second Court House built.

The committee of 1906 approved the following inscriptions: "1728. Erection of Second Court House, at Richmond." "1729. County Seat removed to Richmond."

We have appended to this report what evidence we have found in reference to the establishment of the courthouse at Richmond (39), and from this it can properly be inferred that the courthouse therein mentioned was the first erected at public expense on Staten Island, and that what is now known as Richmond was selected as the county seat by a committee of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the County of Richmond in 1707, acting under the law passed in 1704 requiring the selection of "Such convenient place or places neer the middle of the said County" (40).

It would appear that the site selected by the justices in 1707, which was on land belonging to "Mr. Rezoe and Lues Deboys," provided they gave the land (40), was not that on which the jail and courthouse was ultimately built, for there is no record to show that the above owners gave or sold their property for the purpose, and we learn from a deed given in 1768, that a plot near by had been "heretofore granted by Richard Cole, or William Tillyer, to the County of Richmond, for the use of settling a Court House." This deed of 1768 describes the property conveyed, as "beginning at the S. W. corner of Court House as it now stands" (41).

In 1741 the courthouse had not been entirely finished, for an

act was passed in that year to enable the justices to finish and complete their courthouse (42).

On March 6, 1729, a court was held in the courthouse at Richmond Town, according to Clute (p. 459), while the earliest mention of the court of sessions being held at Richmond is dated September 2, 1729, according to Morris (1: 80). If we accept these dates, which we have not verified by the original records, it can properly be said:

1729. Courthouse built at Richmond which had been selected for the county seat in 1707.

The tenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1776. Declaration of Independence announced at New Dorp.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1776. Arrival of British army on Staten Island. Declaration of Independence announced at New Dorp. Battle of Long Island planned at New Dorp. British-American conference at Billopp House."

By referring to Morris (1: 207) it may be seen that the event commemorated is the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Sir Wm. Howe and his generals, in the Old Rose and Crown farmhouse at New Dorp. There can be no reasonable doubt that they read this great document, as thousands of others did; but why this incident should be perpetuated as one of our most important historical events, and the date of the evacuation of Staten Island by the British pass unnoticed, is not clear. We believe that the inscription mentioned does not clearly indicate the nature of the event commemorated, and that the event is not of sufficient importance to have a place on the tablet.

"1783. Staten Island evacuated by the British," would be a more satisfactory inscription. This proposed inscription in a slightly modified form, it should be said, was suggested by the committee of 1906, but was not given a place on the tablet.

The eleventh date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1812. Rebuilding of British forts by the Americans.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved "1812. Rebuilding of British Forts by Americans."

From Wilson's Memorial History of New York City and the Public Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York, 1807 to 1817, published by the State in 1902, we learn that in 1807 the city was defenseless, the Narrows and Hell Gate passage being without a fortification; that the State of New York commenced the building of fortifications on Staten Island at the Narrows in the winter of 1808-9, and that the work was continued until the close of the war, December 25, 1814 (43).

We think from these circumstances, stated more in detail in the appendix, that the following inscription would be more accurate: 1808-14. Forts at the Narrows built by the State of New York.

The location of the several forts is well shown on a Map of New York Bay and Harbor and the Environs (U. S. Coast Survey, 1844-5), in the library of the Association.

The twelfth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1860. Running of first steam railroad on Staten Island.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1860. First steam railroad on Staten Island."

This was the railroad from Clifton to Tottenville, formerly owned by the Staten Island Railroad Company, now by the Staten Island Railway Company. Clute (Annals 331) says that the "first receipts from passengers was on the 23d day of April, 1860, the trains running only a part of the way; but on the second day of June, of that year, the formal opening of the road took place." Morris (2: 461) gives the same dates.

On August 22, 1910, S. P. Kretzer, Secretary of the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railway Company, wrote: "As far as I

can learn from old papers that were turned over to this Company by Jacob H. Vanderbilt, Receiver, it would appear that the first passenger train was run on a portion of the road on the 23d day of April, 1860, and the road formally opened on or about June 2d, 1860." A copy of this letter has been filed with the Association.

From the Supplement to Staten Island Names, Ye Olde Names and Nicknames, by Wm. T. Davis (PROC. NAT. SCI. ASSOC. STATEN IS. 8: 78. Oct. 1903), we quote: "He said he lived between the Iron Spring, and 'Skunks Misery,' and had walked five miles to take a look" (at the locomotive). Richmond County Gazette, March 28th, 1860."

We believe the date and event inscribed on the tablet to be correct and proper.

The thirteenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1886. Inauguration of Rapid Transit Railroad System.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1886. Rapid Transit Railroad opened for passenger traffic." Morris (2: 463) states: "On Feb. 23rd, 1886, the Rapid Transit Railroad was opened for passenger traffic," and Mr. S. P. Kretzer states, under date of August 22, 1910, in letter above referred to: "The first train of the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railroad Company, the predecessor of the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railway Company, was run between Clifton and Tompkinsville, July 31st, 1884, and the road was opened up for passenger traffic, as far as Elm Park, on February 22d or 23d, 1886." (See also Bayles, History of Richmond County, 691. 1887, for an account of the inauguration of the Rapid Transit Railroad System.)

The inscription is, therefore, correct.

The fourteenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1889. Opening of Achter Kill Bridge.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1889. Erection of Achter Kill bridge."

The letter of the secretary of the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railway Co., dated August 22, 1910, previously referred to, stated that construction of the Arthur Kill bridge was commenced in April 1887, and that the bridge was completed and first swung, by Erastus Wiman, at 4:15 o'clock in the afternoon of June 13, 1889. The first passenger train (Staten Island Rapid Transit Railroad) was run from St. George and passed over the bridge January 1, 1890.

The inscription would be more accurate and satisfactory if it read as follows: 1889. Railroad Bridge over Arthur Kill completed.

"Achter Kill" is neither ancient nor modern. In early days the name was usually written "Achter Col," or sometimes "Achter Kol." (See Index, Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York—Achter Col; also Van der Donck's description of New Netherland, 1655, as well as maps of the Dutch period.) As the name Arthur Kill was used in the act of Congress authorizing the construction of the bridge, and as it has been called by that name ever since, there seems to be no sufficient reason for the name "Achter" on the tablet.

The fifteenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1892. Installation of Electric Street Railroads.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1891 (?). First electric railroad on Staten Island."

The Port Richmond and Prohibition Park Electric Railway Company built the first electric railroad on Staten Island, between Port Richmond and Prohibition Park.

The Electrical World states, in its issue of March 5, 1892: "The Port Richmond and Prohibition Park Electric Railway has secured a franchise from the Village, and will build an electric road from its grounds near the Village, to the shore of the Kill van Kull." And in its issue of July 2, 1892: "Port Richmond, N. Y. The R. R. commissioners have approved the application

of the Port Richmond and Prohibition Park Electric Railway Co. for permission to use the overhead single trolley electric system as motive power."

The late E. D. Clark, President of the Board of Directors of the Port Richmond and Prohibition Park Electric Railway Company furnished the following information on April 22, 1914, from memoranda kept by Mrs. Clark: "May 20, 1892, Mr. E. D. Clark drove first spike, in first electric railroad on Staten Island, at Jewett Ave. and Richmond Terrace. Saturday preceding July 4, 1892, electric cars were run between Port Richmond and Prohibition Park, and the public carried without charge. July 4, 1892, the road was regularly opened to the public, and fare collected."

The Staten Islander of July 6, 1892, says, "There is much rejoicing in Prohibition Park over the opening of the electric railway . . . On every hand are heard expressions of hope, that the road will be the predecessor of many others, the pioneer amongst dozens of others, penetrating all parts of the Island. . . . The Day at Prohibition Park [July 4, 1892] . . . the electric cars ran successfully."

Mr. H. J. Blackham, Superintendent of Railways of the Richmond Light & Railroad Co., has furnished the following data from memoranda and newspaper clippings:

"The Richmond County Railroad Company ran its first electric car about February 15, 1894."

"Staten Island Electric Road (Syndicate Road). Trolley car made first trip over completed portion of road from St. George to Jersey Street, December 17, 1895" (Staten Island Leader, December 21, 1895).

"South Shore line started January 1, 1896, from Hamilton Avenue, St. George, to Clifton R. R. crossing."

"First electric car to Elizabethport Ferry was run July 4, 1896, the day the above named Ferry was opened."

"The Midland Elec. Railroad Co. ran its first electric car (No. 12), from Port Richmond to Richmond, on Saturday evening,

July 25, 1896" (Richmond County Advance).

"First electric car was run to ferry at St. George, Thanksgiving day, 1896."

From the above it would appear that the inscription on the tablet should be corrected to read: 1892. First electric street railroad on Staten Island.

The sixteenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1898. Staten Island incorporated in New York City as Borough of Richmond.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1898. Staten Island incorporated in Greater New York."

Staten Island was incorporated in New York City, as the Borough of Richmond, by Chapter 378 of the Laws of 1897, which became a law May 4, 1897, with the approval of the Governor. The law provided that the new form of government should take the place of the old on January 1, 1898.

The inscription is correct.

The seventeenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1906. Municipal Ferry established, Manhattan-Richmond.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1906. Municipal Ferry established."

Mr. W. A. Ross, Secretary of the Commissioner of Docks & Ferries of New York City, writes under date of March 17, 1914: "that the date of the establishment of the municipal ferry service to Staten Island was October 25, 1905." This letter is in the files of the Association.

The Staten Islander of October 25, 1905, also states that "the New Ferry begins to-day. The new ferry boats begin running this morning at 11 A. M."

We, therefore, find that the date should be changed from 1906 to 1905.

While it is quite certain that most of the dates and events which we have found correct, and those for which modifications have been suggested to meet the requirements of accuracy, deserve a place on the tablet, it should, nevertheless, be understood that among the many inscriptions that might be suggested our attention has been limited to the seventeen dates and events that have been placed thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD R. BAYNE,
GEORGE W. TUTTLE,
WM. T. DAVIS,
C. G. HINE,
Committee.

REFERENCES TO AUTHORITIES FOR STATEMENTS MADE IN THE REPORT⁵

1. Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York. Albany 1853-87 (hereafter referred to as Col. Doc.) 13: 200. (App. No. 7.)
The New York Historical Society Collections 1913. (Melyn Papers p. 109-115). (App. No. 49.)
2. **De Vries, D. P.** Korte Historiae, ende Journael 'tHoorn 1655. Reprinted in Narratives of New Netherland 1609-1664: 211. N. Y. 1909. (App. No. 14.)
3. Col. Doc. 13: 223, 244. (App. No. 55.)
4. Col. Doc. 2: 443. (App. No. 61); 14: 546. (App. No. 57.)
5. **O'Callaghan, E. B.** Laws and Ordinances of New Netherland 1638-1674: 458. Albany 1868. (App. No. 58.)
6. Record of Patents 3: 13, in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany. (App. No. 62.)
7. Land Papers 2: 67, in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany. (App. No. 63.)

⁵ Extracts from these authorities, included in the Appendix, are indicated by the references "(App. No. —)," in which the numbers correspond with those in the margin of the Appendix.

8. Land Papers 2: 68, 71, 87, in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany. (App. No. 74.)
Record of Patents in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany, 5: 285, 342, 384; 6: 251. (App. No. 74.)
9. Col. Doc. 13: 415. (App. No. 124.)
Denton, Daniel. A Brief Description of New York, etc. London 1670. (App. No. 65.)
Journal of Jasper Danckaerts 1679-80 p. 72. N. Y. 1913. (App. No. 68.)
10. Same as No. 2 p. 202 and 211. (App. No. 5 and 11.)
11. Same as No. 2 p. 211. (App. No. 12.)
12. Same as No. 2 p. 211. (App. No. 11.)
The New York Historical Society Collections 1913 (Melyn Papers p. 109). (App. No. 49.)
13. **Brodhead, J. R.** History of the State of New York 1853-71 1: 525. (App. No. 23.)
O'Callaghan, E. B. History of New Netherland 2: 158. N. Y. 1848. (App. No. 23.)
Col. Doc. 14: 157. (App. No. 24.)
14. The Record (Court Minutes) of New Amsterdam. 1: 412. N. Y. 1897. (App. No. 33.)
15. Col. Doc. 14: 168. (App. No. 25.)
See also references No. 16, 17, and 18.
16. Col. Doc. 1: 528, 638. (App. No. 22.)
Brodhead, J. R. History of the State of New York 1: 524. (App. No. 22.)
O'Callaghan, E. B. History of New Netherland 2: 130, 157. N. Y. 1848. (App. No. 22.)
17. Col. Doc. 1: 528, 638. (App. No. 30.)
The New York Historical Society Collections 1913 (Melyn Papers p. 109). (App. No. 49.)
18. Calendar of New York Historical Manuscripts, Dutch Council Minutes, Albany 1865, 166. (App. No. 38.)
Col. Doc. 14: 441. (App. No. 48.)
19. Records 1680-1760 Richmond County, in Office of the County

- Clerk, printed in Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Stillwell 1: 52, 54. (App. No. 136 and 138.)
20. Record of Patents in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany 7: 206. (App. No. 134.)
21. Col. Doc. 13: 391. (App. No. 79.)
22. Liber B of Deeds p. 275, in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 98.)
- Morris, I. K.** Memorial History of Staten Island 1: 50. N. Y. 1898. (App. No. 98.)
23. Ecclesiastical Records State of New York 2: 1063. Albany 1901. (App. No. 92.)
24. **Miller, J.** A Description of the Province and City of New York in 1695: 37. N. Y. 1862. (London 1843.) (App. No. 94.)
25. **Morris, I. K.** Memorial History of Staten Island 1: 44. N. Y. 1898. (App. No. 108.)
26. Liber B of Deeds p. 388 and 390 in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 99 and 100.)
27. Liber B of Deeds p. 262 in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 95.)
28. Liber B of Deeds p. 629 in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 102.)
29. Col. Doc. 14: 441 (App. No. 48); 13: 206, 223, 224 (App. No. 53 and 55); 2 443 (App. No. 61.)
30. Calendar of New York Colonial Manuscripts, endorsed Land Papers, in the Office of the Sec. of State of New York, 1648-1803: 7-8. Albany 1864. (App. No. 112.)
31. Liber B of Deeds in the office of the County Clerk, Richmond County p. 275. (App. No. 115.)
- Morris, I. K.** Memorial History of Staten Island 1: 50. N. Y. 1898. (App. No. 115.)
32. Col. Doc. 14: 374 (App. No. 40), 430 (App. No. 46), 546 (App. No. 57); 13: 206. (App. No. 54.)
33. Archives of the State of New Jersey, first series 1: 9-14. Newark 1880. (App. No. 121.)

- Brodhead, J. R.** History of the State of New York 2 : 82. (App. No. 121.)
34. Colonial Laws of New York 1 (1664-1719) : Historical Note p. xi. 1894. (App. No. 123.)
- Brodhead, J. R.** History of the State of New York 2 : 63. (App. No. 123.)
- Col. Doc. 14 : 603-605. (App. No. 125 and 126.)
35. Col. Doc. 13 : 415. (App. No. 124.)
36. Colonial Laws of New York 1 (1664-1719) : 121-127. 1894. (App. No. 130 and 131.)
37. Colonial Laws of New York 1 (1664-1719) : 573, 574. 1894. (App. No. 135.)
38. Liber B of Deeds p. 562, in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. Werner's Civil List of the State of New York, 1889, p. 540. (App. No. 137.)
39. Colonial Laws of New York 1 (1664-1719) : 573, 574 (App. No. 143) ; 2 : 467-467 (App. No. 147.)
- Clute, J. J.** Annals of Staten Island 459. N. Y. 1877. (App. No. 149.)
- Morris, I. K.** Memorial History of Staten Island 1 : 80. N. Y. 1898. (App. No. 150.)
40. Records 1680-1760 Richmond County, in Office of the County Clerk, printed in Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Stillwell 1 : 42, 52. (App. No. 144, 145.)
41. Liber D of Deeds, p. 618, in the Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 153.)
42. Colonial Laws of New York 3 (1739-55) : 167-168. 1894. (App. No. 152.)
43. **Wilson, J. G.** Memorial History of the City of New York, 3 : 237, 284, 290. N. Y. 1893. (App. No. 155, 161, 162 and 167.)
- Public papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York from 1807 to 1817, 1 : 55-78 ; 2 : 78, 138, 161, 185, 242-249 ; 3 : 436, 472-478, 533. N. Y. & Albany 1898. (App. No. 156-160, 163-166, 168.)

APPENDIX

LIST OF IMPORTANT EVENTS DISCUSSED IN THE REPORT, WITH
EXTRACTS FROM DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO

I. 1609. DISCOVERY OF STATEN ISLAND BY HENRY HUDSON

In the table of dates, in Wilson's History of the City of New York, we find the following: "1609 Henry Hudson sails into New York Bay and explores the Hudson River to the head of navigation." (Loc. cit. 1: 604. 1893.)

This briefly states the great thing Hudson did; but he also discovered Staten Island, for Juett, one of Hudson's companions on the *Half Moon*, so clearly describes their position that it can be readily seen that the *Half Moon* was in the Lower Bay and Narrows, from September 3 to 11, 1609, while a boat was making explorations and taking soundings in the vicinity.

Historians agree that Staten Island, Kill van Kull, and Bergen Neck, are referred to in the last clause of the statement of Juett, (1610) that "They found by the way shoald water, two fathoms; but at the North of the River eighteen and twentie fathoms, and very good riding for Ships; and a narrow River to the Westward, betweene two Ilands" (Narr. New Neth. 18; Henry Hudson the Navigator 80.)

Van Meteren (1614) says: "Thence they sailed along the shore, until they reached 40° 45', where they found a good entrance, between two headlands, and thus entered on the 12th of September [1609], into as fine a river as can be found, with good anchoring ground on both sides." (Henry Hudson the Navigator 150. Narr. New Neth. 7.) One of these headlands is plainly Staten Island.

The two preceding citations are from the following publications:

JUETT, ROBERT. The Third Voyage of Master Henry Hudson, etc. in Purchas S. His Pilgrimes. London 1625.

VAN METEREN. Historie der Nederlanden. Hague 1614.

For copies of original documents relating to Hudson, and references on the subject, see *Henry Hudson the Navigator*, by G. M. Asher, the Hakluyt Society, London 1860; and *Narratives of New Netherland*. N. Y. 1909.

II. THE SETTLEMENT OF OLD TOWN, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND INCIDENTS LEADING UP TO
THOSE EVENTS

1. **1623.** Director Stuyvesant, in a letter to the directors in Holland, dated September 24, 1661, reports that certain persons are trying to influence the King of England to take Fort Amsterdam, "by telling him, that the W. I. Co. claims and holds this province by unlawful title, because in 1623 King James had granted to the Company only a watering place on Staten Island and nothing more." (Col. Doc. 14: 506.)
2. **1628.** Isaac de Rasieres, Provincial Secretary, wrote as follows in 1627 or 1628: "The west point is an island, inhabited by from 80 to 90 savages, who support themselves by planting maize." (Narr. New Neth. 103.)
3. **1630.** A sale of Staten Island to Michael Pauw (absent) was made by the Indians, and attested by Director Minuit, August 10, 1630. (Col. Doc. 13: 2.)
4. **1637.** In 1637 the Directors of the West India Co. at Amsterdam succeeded in purchasing from Michael Pauw his territorial rights as Patroon. (Brodhead 1: 268; Holland Doc. 5: 400; N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll. 2d Ser. 2: 338.) Nothing has been brought forth to show that Pauw ever entered upon his purchase.
5. **1639. First colonization.**—The first colonization of Staten Island that has been brought to light is recorded in *Short Historical and Journal Notes* by David Pietersz de Vries, Alckmaer 1655, which states:

"ANNO. 1639 *The 5th January I sent my people to Staten Island to begin to plant a colony there, with assistance to build.*" (Narr. New Neth. 202. Old South Leaflets No. 168 p. 2.)

6. Cornelis Melyn,⁶ a Dutch merchant, visits New Netherland June 16, 1639. (O'Callaghan's Hist. 1: 238; Brodhead 1: 289.)
7. 1640. 3d July 1640. Petition of Melyn by which he receives consent of Directors of West India Co. to establish a colony on Staten Island, and is acknowledged as its Patroon. (Col. Doc. 13: 200.)
8. 1641. 18th Feb. 1641. Another petition, after Melyn's release from imprisonment,⁷ in which he requests "permission, to go to New Netherland with his wife, children, servants, and some animals, in the Company's ships." (Col. Doc. 13: 200.)
9. 18th and 25th February 1641. Two resolutions were passed by the Lords Directors of West India Co., renewing consent formerly given to Melyn to go to New Netherland. (Col. Doc. 13: 201.)
10. Ordinance of the Director and Council of New Netherland, offering a reward for the heads of Raritan Indians, passed 4th July 1641.

"Whereas the Indians of the Raritan are daily exhibiting more and more hostility, notwithstanding they have, by a messenger solicited peace of Us, which we consented to, and permitted him to depart unmolested, on the promise to notify unto Us, within twelve days, the resolution of his Chief, which has not been done; the same Indians, who had experienced every friendship at our hands, having in the meantime, on the plantation of Mess^{rs}. De Vries and David Pietersen, partners, situate on Staten Island, murdered four Tobacco planters, and set fire to the dwelling and tobacco house, whereby the Planters, Farmers and other outlying remote settlers stand in great danger of life and property, which We, under existing circumstances, in consequence of the density of the forest and small number of men, cannot prevent; We have, therefore, esteemed as the best means and considered it expedient to encourage the Indians, our allies hereabout, to take up arms, in order thus to cut off any stray parties who must pass through their territory so that they cannot accomplish any thing against

⁶ For an account of the descendants of Cornelis Melyn see *New Amsterdam and its People*, by J. H. Innes, N. Y. 1902, p. 350-356; also *Baker Ancestry*, by Frank Baker, Chicago 1914.

⁷ He had been taken prisoner on his voyage out by the "Dunkirkers," who had captured his vessel.

our Bouweries and plantations without danger, or at least without being discovered; and in order to incite them the more, we have promised them, Ten fathoms of Wampum for each head of the above mentioned Raritans, and 20 fathoms of Wampum for every head of the Indians who have most barbarously murdered our people on Staten Island." (O'Callaghan Laws and Ord. 28.)

11. **1641. First occupants.**—"ANNO 1641. The 20th August, the ship Eyckenboom (Oak-tree) arrived here, in which came a person named Malyn, who said that Staten Island belonged to him, . . . I thought better things of the managers than this, as the sixth article of privileges mentions that *the first occupants shall not be prejudiced in their right of possession.*" (Old South Leaflets No. 168 p. 15; Narr. New Neth. 211.)
12. "The 1st of September [1641] my men on Staten Island were killed by the Indians"; . . . "Thus I lost the beginning of my colony on Staten Island." (De Vries.) (Narr. New Neth. 211; Old South Leaflets No. 168: 15, 16.)
13. 12th Sept. 1641. Director and Council considered it advisable to erect a small redoubt on Staten Island. (Col. Doc. 13: 9.)
14. The 2d Nov. 1641. "The same day Commander Kieft asked me whether I would permit Malyn to go upon the point of Staten Island, where the maize land lay, saying that he wished to let him plant it, and that he would place soldiers there, who would make a signal by raising a flag, to make known at the fort whenever ships were in the bay, to which I have consented." (De Vries.) (Old South Leaflets No. 168 p. 16; Narr. New Neth. 211.)
15. **1642.** 19th June 1642. A title deed given, which is the conveyance of Staten Island (excepting as much of it as has been granted to de Vries for a bouwerie) to Cornelis Melyn, Patroon. (Col. Doc. 13: 201.)
16. **1643.** Indians rose in arms, on account of an attack upon them by the Dutch on the night between the 27th and 28th February 1643, and destroyed all but two bouweries on Staten Island. (Col. Doc. 1: 151.)
17. **1645.** July 7th, 1645. From Instructions for the Director & Council of New Netherland: "The Director proceeds so rigorously against . . . and the Patroon of Staten Island . . . and so terrifying Cornelis Melyn, on Staten Island, that he dare not leave the place, nor entirely expose himself." (Col. Doc. 1: 498.)

18. 1647. July 25th, 1647. The Director and Council of New Netherland, decreed that Melyn should be fined and banished for seven years. (Calendar N. Y. Hist. Manuscripts 111.)
19. 16th August 1647. Melyn sailed for Holland, on the ship Princess. (Brodhead 1: 472.)
20. 1649. Jan. 2d, 1649. The Director and Council of New Netherland adopt a resolution permitting Melyn to reside in New Netherland, in obedience to orders from the States-General, and the Prince of Orange. (Calendar N. Y. Hist. Manuscripts 121.)
21. 1650. "We do not think it advisable to consider at present your request of erecting a redoubt opposite Staten Island, nor the case of the soldier whom Cornelis Melyn has debauched, and who is still upon that island:" (Letter, Directors of the W. I. Company to Stuyvesant, Amsterdam, 16th Feb. A° 1650; Col. Doc. 14: 122.)
22. Melyn induces Hendrick van der Capellen to undertake the settlement of a colony on Staten Island. Van der Capellen purchased the ship New Netherland Fortune on May 18th, 1650, which sailed on June 30th, with 70 persons on board, including Melyn, in the charge of Capt. Adriaen Post. The ship did not reach Manhattan until Dec. 19th, 1650. (Brodhead 1: 524; O'Callaghan's Hist. 2: 130, 157; Col. Doc. 1: 528, 638.)
23. Melyn fortified himself in his colony, where he established a Manorial Court. (Brodhead 1: 525; O'Callaghan 2: 158.)
24. 13th Feb. 1652. Representation made by the Directors of the Amsterdam Chamber of the West India Co. to the Burgomasters and Regents of Amsterdam.
 "Upon the Island [S. I.] they [Melyn and another], have established a government according to their own notion, also a judicial court." (Col. Doc. 14: 157.)
25. 1652. Extract from letter from Directors in Holland to Stuyvesant, 4th April 1652:
 "All this with the understanding, that we are and will be willing, to grant as much land to everybody, as he will undertake to cultivate and populate, but we do not intend to give away the land with unlimited boundaries, as formerly, especially not whole islands, of which one was given to Cornelis Melyn, who upon 8 leagues of country has only settled 5 or 6 living beings." (Col. Doc. 14: 168.)

26. "[Account of Melyn vs. Van der Capellen]
The Hon. Lord Debit

1. By appraisal of arbitrators is to pay for the barn, rick, well, palisades, etc. and guardhouse etc. the amount of	guilders 1500.
2. For 6½ Morgen (13 acres) of clear land..	" 650.
3. For post rails, according to the decision of arbitrators	" 171:8
4. For the Cattle, as per the Contract.....	" 800.
5. Also according to account as sent to His Honour on Sept. 18th, 1651 for what I have advanced for His Honor's Farmers..	" 1395:3:8
Bill delivered this 15 December 1652, to Mr. Lubartes Van Dincklagen and Jabock Van Couwenhoven for advances made to this date to the said farmers...	
	" 430:9
	<u>4948:0:8</u>

[Melyn vs. Van der Capellen]
Credit

1. For as much as he has paid to me in Fatherland in 1650, as appears in the Contract	guilders 1200.
2. For two pairs of plough oxen, ordered in my account, sent on Sept. 18th, 1651.....	" 400.
	guilders 1600.
3. Dec. 13th 1652 for an assignment drawn on the said date to the charge of the said Lord	" 600.
	guilders 2200:
4. Balance of the present account	guilders 2748:8
	guilders 4948:8
5. Note that the 280 wagon loads of manure have not been considered in the account of the arbitrators but have been left to the discretion of the Hon. Lord by me Cornelis Melyn.	

This account is endorsed in English: "L. Capelle acct. wch. he owes Cornelius Melyen." Though the account mentions neither the name of the debtor nor the locality on account whereof the

debts were contracted, it is evident that this is Melyen's account with Baron Van der Capellen concerning the latter's colony on Staten Island." (The New York Historical Society Collections 1913; Melyn Papers 1640-1699 p.106. The original manuscripts and ancient copies are in the possession of the New York Historical Society.)

27. **1654.** 10th Feb. 1654. A calculation was made in session (at New Amsterdam) how to procure means to resist and prevent piracy. It was proposed to fit out a vessel with 40 men, and it was proposed to tax Staten Island for two men. (Records New Amsterdam 1: 159.)
28. April 15th 1654. "Also, that his Honor would speak or write to Cornelis Melyn of Staten Island about it, [defense against piracy] who had said some time ago, that he was ready to lend a helping hand." (Records New Amsterdam 1: 186.)
29. **1655.** "And a few days later cleared Staten Island of people and houses." Extract from letter of Cornelis van Tienhoven, 14th November 1655 in reference to the massacre by the Indians Sept. 15th, 1655. (Col. Doc. 13: 57.)
30. Van der Capellen in a remonstrance dated 4th October 1656 states "that in August 1655 his Colonie had a population of over 90 souls, with 11 bouwerries in progress, and that all his people that did not make their escape, were killed by the natives, and all his houses and the barns appertaining to the bouwerries on Staten Island were burned." (Col. Doc. 1: 638.)
31. "Adriaen Post said and declared, that all the houses had been burned during the well known affair with the savages Anno 1655 and that no other property had been left, except a few heads of cattle, which he himself had hunted up, after having been released from captivity." (Extract from a letter of Stuyvesant to Directors in Holland, 21st July 1661; Col. Doc. 13: 206.)
32. "Noble and Mighty Sir:

My Lord Schepen Bontemantel:

. . . We ran out to sea for the Menades on the 12th, and on the 17th happily arrived within Sandy Hook. On the 21st we sailed for the North River of Staten Island, by the watering place, and saw that all the houses there, and about the beer house, were burned up by the Indians. . . .

I remain your Honor's Obedient Servant,

Johannes Bogaert

Laus Deo, Ship de Waegh (The Balance). Schrijver
the 31st October, 1655." (Extract from letter in Historical Magazine 1858: 259.)

33. "Monday 6th Decemb^r 1655. In the City Hall [New Amsterdam] . . . Cornelia Schellinger,⁸ pltf. v/s Andries Pos, deft. In case of arrest. Deft. appeals to his competent Judge on Staten Island. . . . Whereas it is in case of arrest, the Court decide, that deft. is amenable to this Bench." . . . Plaintiff stated that she had a mortgage on cattle and other property of Lord van der Capelle, and that cattle were killed and sold without satisfying mortgage. (Records New Amsterdam 1: 412, 413.)
34. "Monday 13th Decemb^r 1655 in the City Hall. Jannetie Melyns,⁹ pltf. v/s Capt. Adries Pos, deft. Relative to difference about certain cattle, which pltf. has on Staten Island and which deft. prevents her bringing hither; and also that deft. appropriates, what pltf. still owns there." . . . (Records New Amsterdam 1: 416.)
35. 1656. From an Ordinance of the Director General and Council of New Netherland for the formation of villages, etc., passed 18th January 1656, "charge and command them to concentrate themselves, by next Spring, in the form of Towns, Villages, and Hamlets." (O'Callaghan Laws and Ord. 207.)
36. 26th January 1656. Director Stuyvesant to the Council "I stop here and impress it upon your Honors' mind, whether it would not be well, to remove also the small garrison on Staten Island, which has no more protection, but much less than the sailors on the yacht." (Col. Doc. 13: 60.)
37. April 27th 1656. "Petition. Dirck van Schelluyne, for and on behalf of Mdme. Post, setting forth her husband's illness, and praying that an armed force be sent to Staten Island for the protection of the rights of baron van der Capelle tho Ryssel, patroon of that place, and that another person be sent thither to take care of the property etc." (Calendar N. Y. Hist. Manuscripts 166.)
38. April 27th, 1656. "Answer to the above. Nothing on the island worth preserving but the cattle; recommends the removal of these to Long Island; population only 6 or 7 persons; 'twould be folly to send a garrison for their protection, an armed force therefore refused; approve of Van Schelluyne as Mr. Van der Capelle's agent." (Calendar N. Y. Hist. Manuscripts 166.)
39. 19th June 1656. "Cornelia Schellinger, pltf, v/s Tryntie van Engelen, deft. Pltf. says that deft. holds her mother's ox in arrest on Staten Island without any reason." (Records New Amsterdam 2: 116.)

⁸ Daughter of Cornelis Melyn.

⁹ Jannetie Melyn, wife of Cornelis Melyn.

40. 19th December 1656. Directors W. I. Co. to Gov. Stuyvesant: "At the request of Baron van der Capellen who now again is sending over some people for the advancement of his bouweries, we have decided to recommend to you especially, that in times of need care be taken and orders issued for the safety of his Honor's people and farmers on Staten Island by assisting them in such occasions with 5 or 6 soldiers." (Col. Doc. 14: 374.)
41. 1657. 17th April 1657. "van de Capellen sent out fresh colonists, and endeavored to encourage the former settlers to return to their deserted homes." (Brodhead 1: 641.)
42. 10th July 1657. van der Capellen secured a deed of Staten Island from the Indians. (Col. Doc. 14: 393.)
43. 14th November 1657: "List of the farmers, men, women, and children, male and female servants sent by Yoncker Hendrick van der Capellen toe Ryssel to Staten Island, in New-Netherland, in West-India since May 1650. And of those who were alive after the dreadful and bloody massacre by the savages in September 1655.
"Captain Adriaen Post with his wife, five children, one male, and one female servant, is still on the Island" [then follows names of persons all living elsewhere]. "There are altogether 62 living souls. This has been reported at Zutphen, on the 14th November 1657, by the wife of Captain Adriaen Post and by the farmer Jan. Aerentsen van Heerde." (Col. Doc. 13: 74).
44. 22d December 1657. van der Capellen having requested the Directors of the West India Co. to assist him in getting his people back into his service, the Directors request the Director General and Council to give him every possible assistance. (Col. Doc. 13: 76.)
45. 22d December 1657. Directors in letter to Stuyvesant object to purchase of Staten Island from Indians by Baron van der Capellen. Stuyvesant is instructed to get a deed to the Directors, and annul the other. (Col. Doc. 13: 75.)
46. 1659. 13th February, 1659 Letter from Directors W. I. Co. to Director Stuyvesant. "We uphold what we formerly wrote you about Baron Hendrick van der Capelle, who has bought Staten Island without the knowledge of the Company and calls himself Lord and Patroon of it. Our former order must be executed and the island taken possession of by you in the name of the Company either by virtue of a purchase already made or to be made hereafter. (Col. Doc. 14: 430.)

7. Contract between Lords Directors and Melyn regarding Staten Island, 14th June 1659. Melyn agrees to release to West India Co. his authority, jurisdiction, etc. as Patroon, and keeps lands, houses, and lots, thus far possessed. When a sheriff is wanted in the colony, or shall be appointed, his son when he becomes of age, shall have the preference. (O'Callaghan Hist. 2: 575; Col. Doc. 13: 200; Albany Records vol. 8.)

8. 23rd July 1659 "As very few persons live on Staten Island on behalf of Baron van der Capelle, not more than two or three families, for whose safety, pursuant to your orders five or six soldiers are kept there at the expense of the Company and as so far no more show any inclination to settle there as colonists, this matter remains as it was, at least until you shall have spoken with Cornelis Melyn, who is still in Holland." (Director and Council to Directors in Holland. Col. Doc. 14: 441.)

9. Extracts from "The Remonstrance & Petition of Cornelius Melyen to ye West India Company in Amsterdam Anno 1659.

"In the year 1640, on July 2d, obtained from your Honors liberty to found in New Netherland, wherever he might think proper a colony and that for this purpose he selected the said Staten Island, . . . August 13, 1640, when he was going thither with people, cattle, goods and all implements necessary for agriculture, he was taken by a Dunkirk frigate, on account whereof he was prevented said year till Anno 1641, when through your help and assistance he arrived with the ship 'Den Eyckenboom' (The Oaktree) in New Netherland on the said Statten Island with 41 persons. He immediately began to build houses, to plough land, and to do everything conducive to establishing a good colony. . . ."

He writes of the massacre by the Indians in 1643 as follows:

"My houses and farms and everything were burnt my cattle besides some people were shot dead, so that I was obliged to flee for the sake of saving my life, and to sojourn with wife and children at the Menatans till the year 1647, . . . I agreed on certain conditions with the Hon. Lord Hendrick Van der Capellen to resell etc. about one-third share of my Colony on the Staten Island, which upon contract he agrees at his expense to people with settlers, and to bring his share up to condition, which he has demonstrated. Consequently about 70 strong and with fresh necessaries for agriculture I again set sail for New Netherland, with the ship named the New Netherland Fortune. . . . I have

resolved to quit the Menatans and, thus Wronged and plundered, to join with wife and children my people in my colony on Staten Island . . . and further intending to repair my above mentioned losses, and attend to the support of my wife and children, which has again been assiduously undertaken by myself and my people, and commenced to cultivate the land which had been laying so long fallow to clear, plow, sow, mow, thresh, make a harbour to build houses, racks, barns for the purpose of lodging the people, and the cattle we were using . . . and there had been commenced 16 handsome farms as well by myself as by my children as also by the people taken along by me for the Lord Van der Capelle and sent over by His Honor; which farms were covered with 27 buildings; houses, racks and barns, each well provided with cattle as well beautiful plow oxen, milch cows, as calves for increase, so that everything began to be abundant on Staten Island." Melyn was in prison in Manhattan when the Indian massacre occurred on the "16th of September [1655] when the savages set fire to all buildings around the Menatans and killed and murdered a large number of our people"; his friends procured his release, however. "I then immediately departed for the Staten Island to see whether I could save my people, houses and goods from the savages; but in vain; for a few days later the savages arrived there in great numbers and commenced to attack our people, to set fire to the houses, stacks, barns mostly full of grain, so that the people were obliged to seek safety in my house which they (the savages) also succeeded in setting afire. And when the cinders began to fall down on us we were forced to leave it and obliged to break through the savages to enable us to retire to another small house standing close to the shore. Here we held out for some time longer, hoping meanwhile to receive some assistance from the Menatans. But all in vain. At last the savages called out to us that if we desired quarter they would grant the same to us, whereupon we resolved as we saw no other refuge (here nearly an entire line obliterated) because from among our number already 15 or 16 persons, among whom my son 22 years old, my son in law and two nephews had been shot dead, besides some wounded; and thus fifty-one in number went into captivity among the savages, where we remained during thirty one days until I had raised a ransom of about 1400 guilders for myself, wife, son and son-in-law, which was to be paid if we did not want to be burnt alive in a fire which for this purpose had been already prepared and was burning. . . .

I submit to your Honour's judgment after all that had befallen me and I being in such a sorrowful and miserable condition, my children and people murdered by the savages, the houses, racks, barns to the number of 25, burnt, the people, cattle and farms destroyed, my goods stolen, and in place thereof debts incurred for my ransom, and retaining the bitter hatred of the Director, I have resolved to quite the Menatans, in order not to perish absolutely with wife and children and for the time being to put myself under the protection of the English; and consequently departed with my family for New Haven." (The New York Historical Society Collections 1913. Melyn Papers 109-115).

50. **1660.** An ordinance of the Director General and Council of New Netherland for the establishment of Villages passed February 9th, 1660, provided that all isolated Farmers at latest by middle of April, should remove houses, goods and cattle, to the village or settlement nearest and most convenient to them, "or, with the approval of Director General and Council, to a favorably situated and defensible spot in a new palisaded Village to be hereafter formed, on pain of confiscation of all such goods as shall be found after the aforesaid time, in separate dwelling and farm-houses." (O'Callaghan Laws and Ord. 369.)

51. March 6th, 1660 a treaty of peace is made with the Indians. Mettano formerly chief of Najeck is now chief of Staten Island. (Col. Doc. 13: 148.)

52. The 20th November 1660 Baron Frederick van der Capellen ter Budelhoff, as Executor and Co-heir of the late Hendrick van der Capellen tot Ryssel, surrenders to the West India Co. "such a portion as the aforesaid Baron van der Capellen pretended to be his property, in Staten Island, situated in New Netherland, with the Patronage, the Mansion, Outhouses, Tools of husbandry, Stock," etc. (O'Callaghan Hist. 2: 576; Albany Records vol. 8.)

53. **1661.** Extract from letter of Stuyvesant to the Directors, 21st July 1661, which refers to claim of Melyn to the ownership of 2/3 of Staten Island and his claim on the other 1/3 against the heirs of van der Capelen:

"This is the reason why these suitable lands are not settled and cultivated and they will be settled and cultivated only slowly, as long as the aforesaid Melyn makes claim to be owner of either the whole or part of it." (Col. Doc. 13: 206.)

54. August 22d, 1661. Petition of Pieter Billou, Claude Le Maitre and others, all recently arrived emigrants, asking that lands on Staten Island "might be allotted and given them as property for farm land, meadow and pastures and that lots for houses and gardens might be laid out at a convenient place."
- "The Director General and Council heard the petition and after taking it in consideration, they resolved to look up a convenient place on Staten-Island and lay it out for a village." (Col. Doc. 13: 206; O'Callaghan Hist. 2: 427; Brodhead 1: 692.)
55. 1662. 15th July 1662. Extract from a letter of Director Stuyvesant to Directors in Holland,
- "6 men on Staten-Island for the safety of the few inhabitants there, . . . Your Honor's orders and instructions regarding the pretenses of Melyn are strictly obeyed. It must be presumed, that the lands, formerly cultivated by him, will remain abandoned, as since he has been driven from them now seven years ago, he has not troubled himself about the land. We hardly believe, that for the present he will again take possession of them, for he has taken up his residence at New Haven in New England for a few years past, where he still lives." (Col. Doc. 13: 223, 224.)
56. 1663. Extract from journal of a voyage to the Newesinghs, the Sachem and another Savage of Staten-Island, aboard.
- Dec. 6th, 1663. "About 3 o'clock we left the Manhatans under sail, and arrived behind Staten Island, at about 6 o'clock in the evening, where the Sachem of this island, and the savage went ashore." (Col. Doc. 13: 314.)
57. 1662 (about). **Settlement of Old Town.**—Director Stuyvesant wrote to the Directors in Holland, April 26th, 1664, as follows:
- "The first point in your letter requiring an explanation, is the wish, expressed by you, concerning the settling and securing of both Long and Staten Islands near the Narrows. Your Honors' servants are and have been taking care of this and carried it out some time ago by forming hamlets on both islands, according to the circumstances and the convenience of the places and soil as near to the Narrows, as the accommodation of settlers would permit. . . . A hamlet not yet named, was begun on Staten Island about two years ago, and has now about 12 to 14 families of Dutch and French from the Palatinate; it lies about half an hours walk

from the Narrows,¹⁰ there being no more convenient place for a village nearer the water. Both these places were provided with commodious block houses as a defense against the attacks of savages last summer; the blockhouses are built by putting beam upon beam and for their better defence are each provided with two or three light pieces of ordnance, of which one or two are pedereroes; the hamlet on Staten Island, being the weakest and too far to be relieved in time, is garrisoned with ten soldiers for its greater safety." (Col. Doc. 14: 546.)

58. 1664. **Court established.**—Ordinance of the Director General and Council of New Netherland erecting a Court of Justice on Staten Island, Passed 28th January 1664.

"The Director General and Council of New Netherland,

To all those who shall see these Presents or hear them read, Greeting make known.

That they, for the public good, for the greater advancement and increase of the recently begun Village on Staten Island, and for the more convenient administration of Justice have considered it necessary to establish in the aforesaid Village an Inferior Court of Justice, which shall provisionally consist of the three under-named Commissaries, to wit: David d'Amarex, Piere Billiou, and Walraven Lutten.

Before whom, in the first instance, shall be brought all Questions, Actions and Differences arising in said Village between Lord and Vassal, Master and Servant man, Mistress and Maid, Neighbor and Neighbor, Buyer and Seller, Lessor and Lessee, Master and Workman, and other such like; Item, all Criminal Actions, consisting of Deeds, Threats, Fighting or Wounding, whether moved and instituted by party or by the Senior Commissary who, until further order, shall represent the Sheriff in that place.

And said Commissaries shall do justice to the best of their knowledge between parties appearing before them, and may decree provision of Deposit, Dismissal or Definitive condemnation, as the circumstances of the case shall authorize.

¹⁰ Translation made about 1820 by Dr. Francis Adriaen van der Kemp from Albany Records (18: 235-6) reads as follows:

"A new concentration was two years ago commenced on Staten Island, yet without a name, of about 12 @ 14 families, consisting in Dutch and French from the Palatinat nearly one mile and a half from the entrance [the Narrows]. Stuyvesant to the Directors, April 26, 1664."

But any party feeling himself aggrieved may appeal to the Director General and Council of New Netherland, according to the custom here, from all judgments exceeding Fifty guilders, pronounced by said Commissaries.

And said Commissaries are hereby specially commissioned and authorized to enact proper Ordinances that the Cornfields and Gardens be carefully fenced, kept inclosed, and the broken fences properly repaired. They hereby command all inhabitants of the aforesaid Village who already are there, or who will hereafter come thither, to respect and acknowledge the aforesaid Commissaries for such as they are hereby qualified, and all that, until it be otherwise ordained by the Director General and Council aforesaid.

Thus done in Fort Amsterdam in New Netherland. Dated as above.

Note: The above court was composed of two Magistrates until 14th Feb. 1674 when two others were added making the number of Magistrates four. Tr." (O'Callaghan Laws and Ord. 458. Albany 1868.)

59. General Provincial Assembly held at New Amsterdam on the 10th of April 1664 to consider the state of the Province. Staten Island was represented by David de Marest, and Pierre Billou. (Brodhead 1: 728; New Amsterdam Records 5: 429-431, 450; Albany Rec. 18: 237; 22: 78-90, 105, 106, 145-182; O'Callaghan Hist. 2: 505-508.)
60. August 18th, 1664. Block house on Staten Island, near the Narrows, was seized by the British, and on August 29th New Netherland was surrendered by Stuyvesant to the English under Nicolls. (Brodhead Hist. 1: 738; 2: 24-37; Albany Records 18: 323, 324, 326; Col. Doc. 2: 250-253, 414, 415, 419-423, 429-447.)
61. 1666. Extract from answer of Hon. Peter Stuyvesant to the Observations of the West India Co. on his Report on the Surrender of New Netherland, 1666. Referring to Staten Island he says:
"It is inhabited only on the South side, behind the hill, and consequently out of sight of the fort, by 10 @ 12 men but so and so able to bear arms, who, in order to be protected against a sudden attack of the Savages, did, about a year ago, erect a small slight wooden Blockhouse, about 18 @ 20 feet square, in the center of

their houses, which were slightly constructed of straw and clap boards . . . its garrison consisted of 6 old soldiers, unfit to accompany the others against the Indians. The aforesaid Block-house and hamlet stood within sight of Najeck." (Col. Doc. 2: 443.)

62. **1668.** Patent for two lots of land granted to Henry Hedger and Thomas Walton, 1st May 1668, recites:

"Whereas there are foure Lotts of Land upon Staten Island lying and being upon y^e Hill to y^e East of y^e Towne w^{hch} said Lotts were heretofore lay'd out Proportionably wth y^e rest of y^e Town Lotts" etc. (Record of Patents 3: 13.)

63. The land granted Hedger and Walton was surveyed by Philip Wells April 4th, 1685, by command of Gov. Dongan, and Wells reported "have surveyed and Layd out for Thomas Walton a Certain tract of Land upon the hill to the East of the old towne." (Land Papers 2: 67.)

64. **1670. Name of Old Town first appears on map.**—Old Town appears on a manuscript map showing New York, Long Island, and Staten Island, by Robert Ryder, Surveyor, 1670. Robert Ryder made a number of surveys on Staten Island, and was granted a patent for a large tract of land thereon. The map is in the possession of the New York Historical Society, and a photographic copy is in the possession of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences.

65. A Brief Description of New York formerly called New Netherlands by Daniel Denton, London 1670, which is the first English book on New York, contains the following extract: "Within two Leagues of New York lieth Staten-Island, it bears from New York West something Southerly: It is about twenty-miles long, and four or five broad, it is most of it very good Land, full of Timber, and produceth all such commodities as Long Island doth besides Tin and store of Iron Oar, and the Calamine Stone is said likewise to be found there: There is but one Town upon it consisting of English and French, but is capable of entertaining more inhabitants; betwixt this and Long Island is a large Bay, and is the coming in for all ships and vessels out of the Sea: On the North-side of this Island After-skull River puts into the main Land on the West-side, whereof is two or three Towns, but on the East-side but one. There is very great marshes or Meadows

on both sides of it, excellent good Land, and good convenience for the settling of several Towns; there grows black Walnut and Locust as their doth in Virginia, with mighty tall straight Timber, as good as any in the North of America; It produceth any Commoditie Long Island doth."

Daniel Denton was the son of Rev. Richard Denton who moved to Hempstead, L. I., in 1644, build a Presbyterian Church, and was first minister on Long Island. Daniel Denton was a man of influence in the colony. He was one of the first settlers of Jamaica and became the magistrate of the town. He bought large tracts of land in New Jersey. Denton and another represented Long Island in the General Assembly which promulgated the Dukes Laws. In 1666 Denton became Justice of Long Island. The same description is found also in Ogilby 180.

66. 1671. "Order to Captⁿ. Jacques Cortilleau for laying out y^e Souldiers Lotts on Staten Island," June 14th, 1671.

"y^e Old Towne & y^e New Plantacon next unto it" are referred to therein. Francis Lovelace (N. Y. Executive Council Minutes 1668-1673 2: 489. Albany 1910.)

67. 1674. "Whereas, some of the inhabitants of Staten Island have complained to me of and against Peter Biljouw, the Schout of the aforesaid Island, I have therefore hereby resolved to commission and empower Mr. Cornelis van Ruyven and Captⁿ. Carel Epesteyn to repair by the first opportunity to the village on the aforesaid Island, and there to convene a meeting of the town; to examine the charges which will be brought against said Schout, to hear the debates on both sides, and if possible to compose the differences between them or else to report their conclusion. Done Fort Willem Hendrick this 22^d January, 1674." (Col. Doc. 2: 681.)

68. 1679. 11th Oct. 1679. "We went on to the little creek to sit down and rest ourselves there, and to cool our feet, and then proceeded to the houses which constituted the Oude Dorp. It was now about 2 o'clock. There were seven houses, but only three in which anybody lived. The others were abandoned, and their owners had gone to live on better places on the island, because the ground around this village was worn out and barren, and also too limited for their use." . . . After leaving 'Oude Dorp' and 'Nieuwe Dorp' "We had now no more villages to go to, but went from one plantation to another." (Jour. Danckaerts 72.)

69. Inventory of estate of Nathan Whitman of Staten Island made August 28th, 1679: "A House and land and 4 Erves¹¹ joining to the house, and 40 acres of land in the Old Town, 27 acres of land in the Close laid out by the Surveyor, and 8 acres of Bogg meadow, adjacent to the Erves, and 10 acres of meadow at the Great Killles. £75." (Collections of the New York Historical Soc. 1892. Abstract of Wills New York 1665-1707 p. 64 from Liber 1-2 Wills p. 259.)

70. 1698. Part of Paper endorsed "Jacob Melyen's Petition to His Excellency Richard Earl of Bellomont etc."

Boston Nov. 30th 1698 [or 99] (a copy).

"The humble Petition of Jacob Melyen most humbly sheweth That yor Petitioners Father Cornelius Melyen by virtue of a Grant from the West India Company of Holland bearing date the Third of July 1640; was Governr & Proprietr of Staten Island in the Province of New York & was confirmed in the Governmt and Propriety thereof by Governr Kieft by a Patent bearing date the 19th of June 1642 and was in the quiet Possession and Enjoyment of the Governmt and Soyle of the sd Island as his rightfull inheritance, until he with his people [were] driven from thence by the Indians in the year 1643; and he was after that resettled thereon with diverse families, his servants, until another quarril was made at New-Amsterdam (now New York) with the Indians, Anno 1655 & were then cutt off upon Staten Island, having about twenty psons slain, who were of sd Melyen's Children, Nephews, Servants & Tenants. The Town consisting of about 40 houses, which were burnt, & the Goods made plunder off, & yo^r petitioners sd father & mother & two sons with all those that survived were taken into a barbarous Captivity by the heathen; Yor Excellcy's Petitir was one of the Sons who was much wounded, but recovered not without great difficulty." . . . (N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll. 1913. Melyn Papers p. 136.)

71. 1850-1. From Anthon's Notes made in 1850 and 1851 we extract the following:

P. 2. "'Oude Dorp,' so called by its original Dutch settlers. The first plantation there made by De Vries in 1639, had been destroyed Sept. 1641 by the Raritan Indians. All the details may

¹¹ Erve, erven, a Dutch term signifying the original village plots, so called, with such other house lots as had been granted or sold for that purpose by the town. (Riker 606. 1881.)

be found in Mr. Murphy's translation of De Vries, N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll. Ser. 1, Vol. III, and from a very careful consideration of them, the inference appears certain, that not only the plantation of De Vries, but also Director Kiefts distillery and buckskin factory afterwards set up, were at Oude Dorp. Here too chiefly must have dwelt Baron Van de Cappellen's colonists."

P. 3. "The Miller papers in N. Y. Historical Society Library endorsed 'Paper obtained from Old Judge Mersereau of Chenango, late of Staten Island—got. Dec. 4th, 1800' contain the reminiscence of Altie Widelar wife of Thos. Burbank and settl^d at V. Duzes. She s^d there was 2 or 3 houses at Old Town and at Carls-neck & the Indians run off the Island and murder^d at Old Town all except a little girl who run into the woods—the indian put on her father's clothes and Decoyed the Girl supposing it to be her father her they sav^d. The Indians came principally from Bergen." (See also Morris 1: 39.)

72. 1898. "The summer of 1641 witnessed the commencement of the building of Oude Dorp." (Morris 1: 32. 1898.)

73. "In 1624 Peter Minuit . . . arrived in the country, bringing with him several families of Walloons, . . . These settled at Oude Dorp, Staten Island, and Wahlebocht, Long Island, . . . while a number remained on Manhattan Island." (Morris 1: 55. See also Clute 14; Rep. N. Y. Commercial Tercent. 77–80. 1914; Stiles 1: 25. 1869.)

74. **Location of Old Town.**—The location of Old Town can be determined with considerable accuracy by remembering that villages were usually laid out around crossroads [see plan of Gravesend (1645) and Bergen (1660) on Map of New York Bay and Harbor by U. S. Coast Survey 1844–5, on file in the library of the Association], and that a crossroad or lane, separated the Mary Brittain Patent of 1686, for land "formerly laid out for 4 lots at the Old Towne (Record of Patents 5: 344; Land Papers 2: 87) from the Peter Neue patent of 1685 for land "laid out formerly for two lots at the Old Towne" (Record of Patents 5: 285; Land papers 2: 71), also that in the patent to Mary Brittain there was included a house lot at SE. corner of Peter Neue's land which was at the crossroads.¹² This point presumably the central point of Old

¹² For location of colonial patents see maps of Colonial Grants by George M. Root, on file in the Borough President's office.

Town is on Old Town Road, a little more than halfway from Sand Lane westward toward the sharp turn in Old Town Road. Buildings now occupied as a moving picture studio, on the south side of the road, are near the spot.

The Ryder map, which seems to be quite accurate, shows Old Town located in substantially the same place. The grants within the Old Town included (approximately) the tract bounded south and west by Old Town Road, north by Fingerboard Road, and east by Ocean Avenue extended to meet Fingerboard Road.

III. ERECTION OF THE FIRST CHURCH ON STATEN ISLAND

1650. First church erected . . . by Waldensians
is the inscription on the tablet.

"1650. Stony Brook settled by Waldensians" and "First church on Island erected at Stony Brook," were selected and approved for inscription by the committee of 1906, as printed in *PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC.* 1: 83. Oct.-Dec. 1906.

75. 1655. The great massacre of the Waldensians occurred in April 1655 (Baird 1: 184.)

76. 1656. March 29th 1656, the City of Amsterdam subscribed funds for the distressed Waldenses. (Col. Doc. 1: 617.)

77. Some of the Waldensians, refugees, sailed for the South River, now known as the Delaware River, in Dec. 1656, in three vessels. One of the vessels went ashore near Fire Island Inlet on Long Island, March 8, 1657. Her company were saved, and proceeded in the other two vessels, and are said to have settled in Delaware.

(Baird 1: 183-186; Brodhead 1: 631-632; Vincent 284, 287; Scharf 1: 63; Albany Records 10: 455; 12: 405-411; O'Callaghan Doc. Hist. 4: 83; Col. Doc. 12: 184.)

78. 1664. Aug. 4th, 1664, Stuyvesant wrote in relation to assisting Huguenots who proposed to settle on Staten Island, and at their request suggests that a minister be sent to them. (Col. Doc. 14: 554-555.)

79. First preaching.—August 14th, 1664, Extract from letter of Rev. Samuel Drisius to the Classis of Amsterdam:

"The French on Staten Island would also gladly have a preacher, but their families are few in number and poor, . . . there is no probability that they will settle a preacher. In the meantime, that they may not be wholly destitute Gov. Stuyvesant, at their request, has permitted me to go and preach there every two months, and administer the Lord's Supper. This I have done for about a year." (Col. Doc. 13: 391.)

80. 1679. Neither church nor minister.—"There are now about a hundred families on the island, of which the English constitute the least portion, and the Dutch and French, divide between them about equally, the greater portion. They have neither church nor minister, and live rather far from each other, and inconveniently to meet together . . . in the event of not obtaining Dominie Tessemaker, they would send, or had sent, to France for another." (Jour. Danckaerts 70.)

81. 1682. Resolution of a Town Meeting on Staten Island about the pay of their minister, held June 19th, 1682.

"Att a Towne meeting held the 19th Day of June 1682 by ord^r of Rich^d Stillwell Esq^r one of his Ma^{ties} Justices of the Peace, Being put to vote whether the inhabitants would freely Consent that a Towne Rate should be forthwith made in ord^r to y^e Satisfaction & paym^t of M^r. Morgan Jones who by the Choice & at y^e desire of y^e Inhabitants aforesaid has Exercised the function of a Minister in this Island this yeare last Past. It was carryed in the affirmative." (Col. Doc. 13: 556.)

82. Extract from letter Rev. Peter Tesschenmaker to the Classis of Amsterdam, Oct. 30th, 1682.

"P. S. I am going to Staten Island to engage in the ministry there, during the winter." (Eccles. Rec. 2: 836. 1901.)

83. 1683. At Schenectady, Dominie Tesschenmaeker, who, after leaving Newcastle, had been preaching on Staten Island. (Brodhead 2: 380.)

84. Petition of Francois Martinou, John Boulyn and Others of Staten Island Asking to be Excused from Contributing for the Support of a Minister. Jan. 15th, 1683.

85. Letters from Justice Stillwell to Secretary West in Relation to the Foregoing Petition, concerning the salary of Rev. Morgan Jones. Jan. 19th, 1683 and Jan. 24th, 1683. (Eccles. 2: 844-847. 1901.)

5 **1686.** Rev. Rudolphus Varick to the Classis of Amsterdam, Sept. 9th, 1686.

“Upon the removal of Domine Tesschenmaker to Schenectady, the people of Staten Island have requested me to serve the Lord’s Supper for them four times a year. This I have consented to do.” (Eccles. Rec. 2: 922.)

7. **1688.** Rev. Henry Selyns to the Classis of Amsterdam, Oct. 10th, 1688.

“We are glad to learn that you approve of Domine Dellius’s remaining at New Albany, and of the transfer of Domine Tesschenmacker (from Staten Island) to Schenectady.” (Eccles. Rec. 2: 957.)

8. **1690.** “We have been compelled to depose Dom. Laur, Van der Bosch, called from Staten Island to Esopus.” From letter by Henricus Selyns, Sept. 14th, 1690. (Murphy 116.)

9. New Rochelle’s first minister was the Reverend David Bonrepos, who a few years afterward removed to Staten Island. (Brodhead 2: 625.)

10. **1691.** Letter of Rev. Selyns from New Netherland, June 5th, 1691. Rev. Laurence van den Bosch, who had been called from Staten Island to Aesopus had been deposed from his ministerial office by them. (Eccles. Rec. 2: 1020.)

11. **1692.** Letter Revs. Selyns, Varick and Dellius to Classis of Amsterdam, Oct. 12th, 1692.

“(The churches of) Bergen, Hackensack, Staten Island and Harlem have deserted us, yielding to the power of evil. They say that they can live well enough without ministers or sacraments.” (Eccles. Rec. 2: 1041–1043.)

12. **1693.** “Memorandum of all that was received by virtue of the Order or Authorization for the ransom of slaves in Salee, according to the special act of 1693.

Staten Island, French Church, £3.0.0.” (Eccles. Rec. 2: 1063.)

13. An act for settling a Ministry and Raising a maintenance for them in the City of New York, County of Richmond, Westchester, and Queens County. [Passed Sep. 22, 1693] “for the County of Richmond, 40 pounds in County Produce at money price.” (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 328.)

94. **1695. Meeting house in use.**—A Description of the Province and City of New York with Plans of the City and Several Forts as they existed in the Year 1695, by the Rev. John Miller, contains a list of the churches, ministers, etc; throughout the Province. On p. 37 of the edition of 1862, and on page 55 of the Cleveland edition of 1903 we find:

" Countyes	Churches	Ministers	Familyes
Richmond	A Meeting House	Dr. Bonrepos	English 40
			Dutch 44
			French 36"

According to Bolton's History of Westchester County, Rev. David de Bonrepos was a French Protestant minister, who accompanied the first Huguenot emigrants from France. He was the first minister of New Rochelle.

95. **1696.** 17th of July, 1696, James Hanse Dey conveyed to James Fetchett, a plot described as "Beginning at a flat rock below the (foorlezers) house." Other and later deeds have the same description; the word foorlezer, illegible in this, is supplied from later deeds. (Voorlezer in Dutch, is an ecclesiastical term signifying one who reads in church services.) (Liber B of Deeds p. 262.)

96. Register Boek van de K-K[?] Namen
der Kinderen Dewelck Gedoopt Bennen
op Staten Eylandt van d-
Beginne van het jaer anno 1696.

(The Baptismal register of the Dutch church of Staten Island commencing 1696), Printed in Stillwell's Historical and Genealogical Miscellany 1: 57. (See also Bayles 370.)

97. **1697.** "James hanson dye and James fettchette have freely given unto ye Dutch Congregation for the space and term of fifty years for their use and benefit for y^e s^d term mentioned and that he w^{ch} lives on y^e s^d Land shall have y^e privilege of firewood for his necessity and also that y^e said Land shall be inhabited by no other as by y^e persons that serves y^e said congregation during y^e said term. 6th day of March, 1696-7." (Liber B of Deeds p. 340.)

98. **1698. First lot conveyed for church purpose.**—April 12th, 1698. A lot was conveyed to the French Congregashone or Church on Statone Island, “To Ereckt and build A Church upon the same” (near Green Ridge). (Liber B of Deeds p. 275; Morris 1: 50.)
99. **1699.** 29th of February, 1699, Hans Lawrence conveys to Thomas Cone, land lying at the head of the Fresh Kill, corner at “the house that belongs to the Dutch Congregation.” (Liber B of Deeds p. 388.)
100. **1700.** “13th of March, 1700, Barent Tyse, and Teunis Egbertse, . . . have, to and with the consent of the Dutch Congregation . . . Sell Confirme and make over unto Louis du bois of the sd. County, Our house att the head of the fresh Kills, and the plancks thereunto belonging, which formerly was built for the Dutch Congregation, and for the service thereof, formerly used for the full space and ? as it was formerly expressed.” (Liber B of Deeds p. 390.)
101. **1711.** Aug. 6th, 1711, William Tillyer conveys lot at head of Fresh Kill for the building of an English Church. (St. Andrews.) (Liber B of Deeds p. 584.)
102. **1713. St. Andrews church built.**—29th of June, 1713, Grant to the Corporation of the Church of St. Andrew. This grant recites “All that Stone Church called St. Andrew, and the Tenement and Lott of whereon it is built, Situate and being on Karles Neck At the head of the ffresh Kill, formerly granted by Wm. Tillyer for to build, the said church upon, and for a Cemetery or Churchyard.” (Liber B of Deeds p. 629.)
103. **1729.** May 13th, 1729, Jacques Cortelyou conveys to the Elders and Deacons of the Presbyterian Society etc.
 “Members of ye Presbyterian Society being destitute of a public Meeting House and now have built and erected, but as yet not furnished, a House for that end.” . . . “a certain piece or parcel of Ground Situate lying and Being at Stony Brook” . . . “fronting to the Kings Main Road” . . . “whereon ye sd. Meeting House is now erected.” (Liber D of Deeds p. 449.)
104. **1865.** Extracts from discourse by the Rev. James Brownlee at the Two Hundredth Anniversary of Settlement of Church on Staten Island, June 22nd, 1865.

P. 5. "It is not pretended that there are definite records of the establishment of a Church of our Denomination (Dutch Reformed) on this Island two hundred years ago." . . .

P. 29. "The first Church ever built on the Island was the little Church of the Waldenses at the settlement spoken of."

He refers to the settlement founded by Stuyvesant about 1662 at which ten soldiers were stationed, which we and others identify as Old Town. "It cannot be ascertained where this was situated, but tradition points to a spot on Flatbrook, south of what is known as "Black Horse" . . . "The County-seat was also formerly located near the same place." . . .

P. 30. It is known that Dom. Drisius preached to the church first spoken of (Church of the Waldensians at the settlement mentioned) for a considerable time, at intervals of a month or two months; and it is from inference that we conclude that a little church was organized, there and then, probably in 1664 or 1665.

105. 1875. Extract from address delivered in the Reformed Church, Port Richmond, by Rev. James Brownlee D.D., on the fortieth anniversary of his settlement, N. Y., 1875: "It is known that the Rev. Samuel Drisius, who was one of the pastors of the *Dutch Church* in New York, then New Amsterdam, from 1652 to 1682, preached regularly once a month to the Waldenses on Staten Island, from about 1660 onward."

106. 1877. "About the year 1665, the first church edifice built on the Island was the French or Waldensian Church at Stony Brook. . . . About the same year, 1665, there was another church built on the Island. This was a Huguenot church, and stood near the Fresh Kills, on what is now known as the Seaman farm." (Clute 255.)

107. 1887. "Subsequently in 1651 when the Waldenses arrived." (Bayles 81.)

108. 1898. "Ye settlement [Stony Brook] is located on a brook from which it derives its name. Ye chuⁿ is small and built of stone, . . . erected when ye village was founded in 1658." (Morris 1: 44.)

109. "It is said that in 1680 the scattered people had at last erected two houses of worship at points convenient for them to gather. One of these was at Fresh Kills in Westfield township, to which church came as pastor, in 1697, the Rev. David Bonrepos, who

remained 'til 1717, when the infirmities of age compelled him to give up his charge. The other French church in 1680 was at Stony Brook on the road to Perth Amboy, not far from Oude Dorp. Here the preaching was not exclusively French, for Dutch ministers are found in charge of it. Among others, we find in the records of many baptisms, the name of the Rev. Guillaume (William or Gilliam) Bertholf, who was pastor of the churches of Aququanonk (Passaic) and Hackensack in New Jersey, from 1694 to 1724." (Van Pelt 2: 462.)

IV. FRESH KILLS SETTLED BY FRENCH HUGUENOTS

1660. Fresh Kills settled by French Huguenots

is the inscription on the tablet.

- IO. **1662.** 15th of July 1662, Director Stuyvesant wrote in letter to the Directors in Holland, "6 men on Staten Island for the safety of the few inhabitants there." (Col. Doc. 13: 223.)
- II. **1664.** August 4th, 1664, Director Stuyvesant wrote to the Directors in Holland, "You seriously recommend us, to treat with kindness the French families, which were to arrive here from Rochelle and from St. Martin, to allot to them good parcels of land and assist them in every way. . . . Seven or eight persons of that nationality came over for that purpose by the last ship . . . and being most pleased with Staten Island some of them, among them one Jean Collyn, addressed themselves to us and he said, for the better promotion and speedier execution of the plan, they had resolved that he should return in person by one of the ships and report to the others." They wanted a good French preacher sent over. (Col. Doc. 14: 554, 555.)
- II2. **1676.** March 1676. A considerable number of surveys for obtaining patents for land were filled on the above date; usually for 90 or 180 acres, "lying at y^e south of y^e Fresh kill upon Staten Island."

The names of these applicants are, Francis Sheartree, Richard Cornewell, Samuel Leete, Christopher Hoagland, Hans Christead, Carston Jonson, Jon: Edsall, Georg: Corbet, Jon: Sharpe, Henry Newton, Richard Stillwell, and Tho: Berryman. (Calendar of Land Papers 7, 8.)

113. **1679.** Oct. 1679. "There are now about a hundred families on the island, of which the English constitute the least portion, and the Dutch and French divide between them about equally the greater portion. They have neither church nor minister, and live rather far from each other, and inconveniently to meet together." (Jour. Danckaerts 70.)
114. **1685.** "It (S.I.) is peopled with above two Hundred ffamilies." Gov. Dongan, to Earl of Perth, N. Y. Feb. 13th, 1685. (Col. Doc. 3: 354.)
115. **1698.** April 12th, 1698. A lot was conveyed to the French Congregashone or Church on Statone Island. "To Ereckt and build a Church upon the same." (At Fresh Kill near Green Ridge.) (Liber B Deeds p. 275; Morris. 1: 50.)
116. Census of population on Staten Island in 1698: Men 328, Women 208, Children 118, Negroes 73. Total 727. (O'Callaghan Doc. Hist. 1: 467.)
117. **1877.** "Subsequently, in 1661, when the Waldenses arrived, and, after them, the Huguenots, the settlements at Old Town, and Fresh Kill received accessions." (Clute 31.) "About the year 1665, the first church edifice built on the Island was the French or Waldensian church at Stony Brook. . . . About the same year, 1665, there was another church built on the Island. This was a Huguenot church, and stood near the Fresh Kills, or what is now known as the Seaman farm." (Clute 255.)

V. DUTCH GOVERNMENT SUPPLANTED BY ENGLISH

1664. Dutch government supplanted by English
is the inscription on the tablet.

118. **1664. Surrender of New Netherland.**—12th of March: Charles II, King of England, made a grant to his brother James the Duke of York, of the territory occupied by the Dutch. A part of the description of the territory granted, reads as follows, "Togeather alsoe with the said River called hudsons River and all the land from the West side of Conectecutte River to the East side of Delaware Bay;" (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 1; N. J. Archives, 1 ser. 1: 3, 4.)

19. After receiving this grant, the Duke of York borrowed several men of war from his brother the King, and Col. Nicolls was appointed the commander of the expedition for the conquest of New Netherland, which set sail May 15th, 1664. It anchored at Nyack (in Gravesend Bay) the 18th of August, the approaches to New Amsterdam were blockaded, and the blockhouse on Staten Island, opposite the squadron, was occupied.

Col. Nicolls sent a letter to Director Stuyvesant on August 20th requiring his surrender, to which Stuyvesant replied on August 23rd. Col. Nicolls refused to argue the matter, and landed troops at Gravesend on August 25th; from there they marched to the ferry at Brooklyn. Articles of capitulation were agreed upon by representatives of Stuyvesant, and Nicolls, on August 27th, and New Amsterdam was surrendered to Col. Nicolls on August 29th, 1664. (Col. Doc. 2: 414, 415; 13: 393. See Brodhead 2: 20-37 for account with references.)

VI. STATEN ISLAND SEPARATED FROM NEW JERSEY

1668. Staten Island separated from New Jersey

is the inscription on the tablet.

20. 1664. 12th March 1664, Chas. II, King of England made a grant to his brother the Duke of York, described in part as follows: "Togeather alsoe with the said River called hudsons River and all the land from the West side of Conectecutte River to the East side of Delaware Bay." (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 1; N. J. Archives, 1 ser. 1: 3, 4.)

21. 23rd and 24th June 1664. The Duke of York executed deeds of lease and release, to Lord John Berkeley, and Sir George Carteret, granting to them, their heirs and assigns, all that portion of his tract "Lying and being to the Westward of Long Island and Manhitas Island and bounded on the East part by the Maine Sea and part by Hudson's River," "which said Tract of Land is hereafter to be called by the name or names of New Cesarea or New Jersey." (N. J. Archives, 1 ser. 1: 9-14; Brodhead 2: 82.)

122. 1665. The 10th of Feb. 1665, was signed and published a document called "The Concessions and Agreement of the Lords Proprietors of the Province of New Cesarea or New Jersey." At the same time Capt. Philip Carteret, a cousin of Sir George Carteret, was commissioned as Governor, and received his instructions from the Proprietors. Governor Carteret arrived at New York on the 29th of July, 1665. He chose, as a seat of Government, a spot on the north bank of "the Kill," where four families had already been settled under authority of Nicolls, and named it Elizabethtown. (Brodhead 2: 83-86, with numerous references; N. J. Archives, 1 ser. 1: 20-28.)
123. Almost the first step taken by Nicolls after his arrival, was to create from the English portion of the Province of New York, consisting of Long Island, Staten Island, and Westchester County, the Shire of Yorkshire, dividing it into three districts, or "ridings." (Col. Laws N. Y. 1, Historical Note, p. xi; Brodhead 2: 63.)
- For the laws of the province see Duke of York's Laws, 1665-75. (Col. Laws N. Y. 1, p. 6; N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll. 1 ser. v. 1, 1809.)
124. 1667. "A warrant from the Governo^r to the Inhabit^{ts} of Staten Island, empowering them to chuse civill officers. Whereas Mr. Nicholas Stillwell by y^e Mayo^r pt of yo^r Inhabit^{ts} beene elected Constable of yo^r Towne I have this day confirmed him in y^e s^d office for this ensueing yeare: You are hereby likewise appointed and authorized to chuse out of yo^r planta^{con}, two good and sufficient men to be Overseers, to whom y^e Constable may administer their oath, who with the said Constable shall have power to decide and determine all matters of debt & difference betweene you or any of you arising, under y^e value of five pounds & for what shall bee above the s^d sume, you are to have recourse to y^e Sessions at Gravesend upon Long Island, & in all other matters you are to bee guided according to the Rules prescribed in the Lawes for the Townes within this Governm^t. Given under my hand at ffort James in N. Y., this 7th day of Sept. 1667. R. Nicolls. To the Inhabit^{ts} of the planta^{con} upon Staten Island." (Col. Doc. 13: 415.)

5. Nov. 3rd, 1667 an order was issued, levying taxes for the Sessions house in the West Riding of Yorkshire to be built at Gravesend. (Col. Doc. 14: 603.)

6. 1668. On 19th of Feb. 1668, Gov. Nicolls issued "The Govern^{rs} Warr^t, sent to y^e Constable and Overseers of each Towne in y^e West Riding, About y^e Payment of their Proportions towards y^e Sessions House.

	£.	s.	d.
Gravesend	16	04	05
New Towne	26	02	3½
Bushwick	05	11	2½
Amesford	13	19	7½
Bruycklyn	15	03	11
fflat Bush	19	03	08
New Utricht	07		
Staten Island	06	14	10½"
	<u>110</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>

(Col. Doc. 14: 604, 605.)

7. 1685. Governor Dongan to Earl of Perth: "Your agents have dispersed printed papers, to y^e disturbance of y^e inhabitants of Staten Island, It hath been in the possion of his R^{ll} High^{ss} above 20 years (except y^e little time y^e Dutch had it), purchased be Governour Lovelace from y^e Indyans, in y^e time of S^r George Carteret, without any p^rtences 'till y^r agents made claime to it, it is peopled with above two Hundred ffamilies. . . . N. York, ffbruary y^e 13th, 1685. Tho: Dongan."

(Col. Doc. 3: 354.)

8. 1877. "In 1668 the Island 'was adjudged to belong to New York' because one of the outlets of Hudson River ran around the Island. . . . The Duke of York himself appears to have had his doubts about the matter, for it is said that when this question of jurisdiction was first agitated, he decided that all islands lying in the river, or harbor, which could be circumnavigated in twenty-four hours, should remain in his jurisdiction, otherwise to New Jersey.

Christopher Billop, being then in the harbor in command of a small ship called the Bentley, which it is also said he owned, undertook the task of sailing around the Island, and accomplished it

within twenty-four hours, thus securing it to the Duke, who, in gratitude for the service rendered him, bestowed upon Billop a tract of 1163 acres of land in the extreme southern part of the Island, which was called the 'Manor of Bentley.'" (Clute 47-48. See also Morris 1: 85, 136, 137.)

Clute as a preface to this story, stated (p. 47), "we shall be under the necessity of mingling, in some measure, tradition with legitimate history." How the story originated is not known. It has been repeated and amplified in later histories, but nothing is given to show what basis it rests on.

129. 1909. For numerous documents in the above matter see Proc. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 3: 37-48. Oct.-Dec. 1909. (The Disputed Claim of the Proprietors of East Jersey to Staten Island, by Edward C. Delavan, Jr.)

VII. COURTHOUSE ERECTED AT STONY BROOK

1683. Court house erected at Stony Brook (county seat) is the inscription on the tablet.

"1683. Stony Brook made County Seat until 1729." "First County Court House, erected at Stony Brook." "Organization of Richmond County," were selected and approved by the committee of 1906 as printed in Proc. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 1: 83. Oct.-Dec. 1906.

130. 1683. "AN ACT to divide this province & dependences into shires and Countyes. (Passed, Nov. 1st, 1683.) Having taken into Consideracon the necessity of dividing the Province into Respective Countys for the better governing and settling Courts in the same. Bee it enacted by the Governor Councill and Representatives, and by the Authority of the same, Thatt the said province be divided into twelve countys as followeth. . . . The County of Richmond to conteyne all Staten Island Shutters Island, and the Islands of Meadow on the West side thereof. . . ." (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 121.)
131. "AN ACT to settle Courts of Justice. (Passed Nov. 1, 1683.) . . . That in Every Towne in and throughout this province there be one Court held monthly and Every month throughout the yeare

on the first wednesday in the month for the hearing and determining of small causes:”—(decision by 3 persons). Court of Sessions shall be held “for the County of Richmond the first tuesday in March and the first tuesday in September.” Court of Oyer and Terminer “for the county of Richmond the third wednesday in October.” (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 125–127.)

132. Title page of Liber B in office of clerk of the County of Richmond. “The Book of Records for the County of Richmond, cominc^d March 1st, 1683.” There is a volume of court records marked “Records 1680–1760 Richmond Co.”; but so far as can be ascertained Liber B is the first volume of deeds.

133. 1696. William III Rex. to Nathaniel Brittain, Patent Dated 25th June 1696 for 100 acres. Bounded N & W by vacant land, East by the Highway [New Dorp Lane]. (Record of Patents 7: 39.) This vacant land to the west appears to be at Stony Brook or in its immediate neighborhood.

134. 1702. Anne Regina, to Joseph Billop and Abraham Lakeman Patent, Dated 30th June, 1702. Grants Parcel of land lying in the New Dorp (at or near Stony Brook). (Record of Patents 7: 206.)

135. 1704. “Confirmed by the Queen, May 20th, 1708. A Bill for the better Laying out Regulating Clearing and Preserving Publick, Comon Highways in this Colony and for the Erecting and Building a County Jaile and County House in the County of Richmond. (Passed June 27th, 1704.)

. . . And whereas there is wanting in the said County of Richmond a County Jaile and County House which the Inhabitants thereof are not enabled by a particular law to Assess Levy & Collect money for the building & Erecting the same. . . .” (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 573–4.)

136. 1705. 23rd March, 1704/5. Record of laying out of “Road from Curkold Towne to ye fferry” “in a Streight Line to Stoney Brook and over the Said Brook along the old way to the fferry or the watering place.” (Records 1680–1760, Richmond County, Stillwell 1: 54.)

137. 1706. Property immediately west of Stony Brook was conveyed by deed of Samuel Van Pelt, dated 29th Aug. 1706, to

Alexander Stuart "inholder" who was appointed County Clerk in 1708. (Liber B Deeds p. 562; Werner 540.)

138. 1708. Portion of record of laying out of Amboy Road, endorsed: "This is the maine or High Road from the watering place to Billopps agft Amboey."

"Thefe following Infruments was Recorded for the Commiffioners of y^e High Wayes, October the 27th, 1708.

Begining at ye fferry by the watering place from thence along as the Road hath been Some years ufed, to Stony Brook, and over the fd. brook between Hanfs Lowrences, ffence and the fwamp fo along between Stuarts ffence and fd Swamp to the Corner of fd Stuarts ffence, then running to the left hand etc. . . ." (Records 1680-1760 Richmond County p. 107; Stillwell 1: 52.)

139. 1717. In the Book of Records of the Court of Sessions the earliest mention of the Court being held at "Richmond town" is dated Sept. 2nd, 1729. The first mention of its being held at Stony Brook is March 5th, 1717. (Anthon, Book A, p. 4.)

140. 1723. "At a Court of Sessions held in the Court House at Stony Brook, on the 5th day of March, in the ninth of his Majestys' reign (1723) Benjamin Bill, Eq^r. high Sheriffe of the County of Richmond Complains to the Court of the Insufficiency of his majesty Goal" etc. (Clute 167.)

141. 1851. Saturday Evg. Sept. 14th, 1851. Judge Metcalfe says there is an entry at Richmond which he thinks he has seen by which record is made of the transfer of the Court House from Stony Brook to Cuckold's Town. (Anthon Notes, made in 1850-1, p. 71.)

142. 1877. Stony Brook was recognized as the County seat. (Clute 166; Morris 1: 113.)

The precise date of the removal of the county seat from Stony Brook to Richmond cannot now be ascertained. There is a record of a court held in the courthouse, at Stony Brook on the 5th day of September, in the second year of the reign of George II—1728. On the 6th day of March, 1729, a court was held in the courthouse at Richmond town. (Clute 459.)

VIII. COUNTY SEAT CHANGED TO RICHMOND AND SECOND
COURTHOUSE BUILT

1729. County seat changed to Richmond and second court house built

is the inscription on the tablet.

"1728. Erection of second Court House at Richmond," and "1729. County Seat removed to Richmond," were selected and approved by the committee of 1906 as printed in PROC. STATEN Is. Assoc. 1: 83. Oct.-Dec. 1906.

143. 1704. CHAPTER 144 Laws of 1704. Confirmed by the Queen May 20th, 1708.

"A Bill for the better Laying out Regulating Clearing and Preserving Publick, Comon Highways in this Colony and for the Erecting and Building a County Jaile and County House in the County of Richmond. (Passed June 27th, 1704.)

. . . And whereas there is wanting in the said County of Richmond a County Jaile and County House which the Inhabitants thereof are not Enabled by a particular Law to Assess Levy & Collect money for the building & Erecting the same. Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the Justices of the Peace for the said County or the Major Part of them at their Quarter Sessions or otherways shall have full power to order Direct and appoint under their hands the Building & Erecting Such County Jaile & County House aforesaid on Such Convenient place or places neer the middle of the said County (saveing the Property of others) & to Calculate, Settle, agree, Estimate & Examine the Charge of Such Erections & buildings hereinbefore menconed which said Calculacon & Estimate of the Charges Provided the Same do not Exceed the Sum of Two hundred pounds shall be Delivered with a Warrant under the hands of the Justices into the respective Assessors of each Division of the said County who shall equally, Justly & Impartially Rate & Assess the ffreeholders & Inhabitants of the Said County. . . . (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 573, 574.)

144. "Ellius Duxbury Joseph Billopp, Daniel Locke Ephraim Tayler and Abraham Lakeman, five of Her Majesties Justices of the peace for the County of Richmond being met together on the Eighteenth Day of September & in the Third year of the Reign

of our Sovereinge Lady Anne over England Scotland france and Ireland Queene Defender of the faith & Anno Dom- 1704 and by the Majority of Votes made Choice of Lambert Garriſon Sheriff Jaques Pollion Gent and Antony Tyse yeomen for to Looke for the moſt Convenient place in the Center of the Said County to build and Erect an Edifice on" [ends here]. (Records 1680-1700 Richmond County; Stillwell 1: 52.)

145. 1707. January The 28th, 1706-7. "Att a meeting of the Juſtices hereunder named and haveing under there confideration of building a towne houſe and preſon according to Act of Aſſembly it is hereby ordred that the ſaid Towne houſe and preſon According to the Said Act be built at the head of the freſh Kill upon the Land of Mr. Rezoe and Lues Deboys provided mr. Rezoe and Lues Deboys do performe a promiſe they made by them of Giveing and Conveying the Ground promiſed by them before three of us for the uſe of a Town houſe and Preſon for the uſe of the County forever.

Ellis Duxbury

Joseph Billopp

John Stillwell

his

Abraham A Lakeman"

mark

(Record 1680-1760 Richmond Co. Stillwell 1: 42.)

146. 1710. In 1710 the priſon was built at "Cuckols towne" (Richmond) by order of the Court, as follows:—

"Ordered that Mr. Lambart Garisone and Mr. Wm. Tillyer (the late and then preſent Sheriff) See the priſon Houſe built at Cuckols Towne—y^e Dimensions Twelve foot in breadth, fourteen foot Long, Two ſtory high, ſix foot y^e Loer Room from beam to plank, and the upper Story Six foot, all to be built with ſtone, and for building of the ſd priſon the Said Undertakers have hereby power To take the Monys out of the Collectors hands for carying on the ſd work & the order of y^e ſd. Undertakers and Receipts ſhall be a Sufficent diſcharge to y^e ſd. Collectors." (Clute 168; Morris 2: 177.)

147. 1728. "An Act to Enable the Juſtices of the peace in the County of Richmond to build a County Houſe and a New Goal in the ſaid County. (Passed September 20, 1728.)

Whereas in and by vertue of an Act of General Aſſembly En-

tituled an Act for the better laying out regulating clearing and preserving publick comon High Ways in this Colony and for the Erecting and building a County Goal and County House in the County of Richmond passed in the Third Year of Queen Anne it was amongst other things Enacted that the Justices of the peace of the Said County Should build a County Goal which said Goal being built Accordingly is now in Such a Condition that it is highly necessary to build a new one and Some Doubts and Scruples being made whether the same can be done and money raised for that and other purposes mentioned in the Act Aforesaid,

BE it ENACTED . . . that the Justices of the peace of the Said County or the Major part of them Shall be and hereby are fully Authorized and Impowered to raise within the Said County a Sum of mony not exceeding the Sum of Two Hundred pound for the building of a Goal & County House if the Major part of the JUSTICES of the peace of the Said County Shall think it necessary. . . . (Col. Laws N. Y. 2: 467, 468.)

148. 1729. March the 22th day, 1728/9. . . . "beginning by the Gole or gaile at Richmond town fo Running north fide of a Certain pond In the faid town and from thence Eafterly. . . . [in place of] the Rode that now Runs one the fouth fide of the above faid pond that Leads from Richmond town to ftony Brook formerly Laid out by Mr. Joseph billopp Jaquas pillion & nicholas Manning" . . . (Record 1680-1760 Richmond County; Stillwell 1: 44.)
149. "The precise date of the removal of the county seat from Stony Brook to Richmond cannot now be ascertained. There is a record of a court held in the court-house, at Stony Brook on the 5th day of September, in the second year of the reign of George II—1728. On the 6th day of March, 1729, a court was held in the court-house at Richmond Town." (Clute 459.)
150. "The earliest mention of the Court of sessions being held in Richmond is dated Sept. 2, 1729." (Morris 1: 80.)
151. "In the Book of Records of the Court of Sessions the earliest mention of the Court being held at 'Richmond town' is dated Sept. 2nd, 1729. The First mention of its being held at Stony Brook is March 5th, 1717." (Anthon, Book A, p. 4.)
152. 1741. "An Act to Enable the Justices of the Peace in the Colony of Richmond to Finish and Compleat their Court House. (Passed Nov. 7th, 1741.)

. . . Said Sum of Two Hundred pounds, has not been Sufficient to Finish and Compleat the Said Court House . . . a Sum not Exceeding the Sum of Twenty Pounds . . . Shall be Raised . . . to be applied for the use before Mentioned." (Col. Laws N. Y. 3: 167, 168.)

153. 1768. Mathias Swame to John Hillyer Jun. Nicholas Depuy, Richard Connor and Anthony Fountain Supervisors, conveys on the 15th day of July 1768 for the use and in behalf of the said County of Richmond for the privilege of the Court House Goal and Goaler's House now standing or to be put thereon. All that certain parcel of land situate at Richmond town. Beginning at the S. W. corner of Court House as it now stands—including 24 feet or thereabouts — heretofore granted by Richard Cole or William Tillyer to the sd County of Richmond for the use of settling a Court House. (Liber D Deeds p. 618.)
154. 1851. "Saturday Evg. Sept. 14, 1851. Judge Metcalfe says there is an entry at Richmond which he thinks he has seen by which record is made of the transfer of the Court House from Stony Brook to Cuckold's Town." (Anthon p. 71.)

IX. REBUILDING OF BRITISH FORTS BY THE AMERICANS

1812. Rebuilding of British Forts by the Americans is the inscription on the tablet.

Extracts from Wilson's Memorial History of the City of New York and from Military Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York 1807-1817.

155. 1807. "In 1807 the City was defenceless, the Narrows and the Hell Gate passage being without a fortification. In the spring of that year, the general government, alarmed at the drift of our foreign relations, began a systematic work of harbor fortification." (Wilson 3: 284.)
156. The History of Early Fortifications around New York City is given in Tompkins 1: 55-78.
157. 1808. Governor Tompkins was active in the matter of fortification at the Narrows. His letter of May 12, 1808, to Col. Jona, Williams favors works between Hendrick's Reef, and Signal Hill on Staten Island. (Tompkins 2: 78.)

158. Col. Williams furnished a comprehensive plan for the defenses at the Narrows dated Oct. 21st, 1808. (Tompkins 2: 138.) On the 4th of November, 1808, Governor Tompkins resolved to proceed on the above plan, and Nov. 17th, 1808, wrote to the Fortification commission which had been appointed, as to carrying out the work. (Tompkins 2: 161.)
159. 1809. Albany 21st Jan. 1809, "Pursuant to a law of this State appropriating \$100,000 for fortifying the port and harbor of New York, operations have been begun at and near Signal Hill, on Staten Island." (Tompkins 2: 185.)
160. 1810. The commissioners of fortifications, and Col. Williams, file their reports with the Governor, Feb. 6th, 1810. Col. Williams describes Fort Richmond and says Fort Tompkins is just begun. (Tompkins 2: 242-249.)
161. 1812. June 19th, 1812, Declaration of War by the United States. (Wilson 3: 237.)
162. 1813. July 2nd, A blockade of this port was instituted by the British. (Wilson 3: 275.)
163. 1814. Jan. 24th, 1814. "The defences at Staten Island now consist of Ft. Hudson, mounting forty-three twenty four pounders, Ft. Richmond, mounting 27 thirty two pounders, Fort Tompkins, mounting fourteen Cannon. Redoubt and Block House, mounting four eighteens, And a small battery to the south of Fort Tompkins, 9-24s, Making in the whole ninety seven cannon." Ft. Tompkins, cost estimated at \$100,000. An appropriation of \$50,000 recommended for the year. Dewitt Clinton to Gov. Tompkins. (Tompkins 3: 436.)
164. Sept. 23^d, 1814. "The main work at Staten Island, Fort Tompkins) being the principal object of the appropriation of the Legislature, has of course engaged our unremitting attention." (Tompkins 3: 533.)
165. May 28th, 1814, and Sept. 24th, 1814. Reports of Col. Williams, and Gen. Swift, on Staten Island fortifications. (Tompkins 3: 472-478.)
166. The works at the Narrows were far from complete. Col.

Jonathan Williams engineer in charge had changed the original plans, Fort Hudson was then completed. Fort Richmond nearly so, and another battery was contemplated in the rear of both. (Tompkins 1: 76.)

167. Dec. 25th, 1814. Treaty of Peace was signed between the United States and Great Britain. (Wilson 3: 290.)

108. "From 1808 to 1816 The State of New York appropriated \$272,000 for the fortifications on Staten Island and the defence of the port of New York. The report of the Secretary of War in 1818, shows that the only work now progressing in New York is Fort Lafayette, at the Narrows upon Hendricks Reef; will mount 96 cannon and cost \$275,000." (Tompkins 1: 77.)

The works at the Narrows were considered the outer line of defense, and of less importance than those near the city. The United States Government was active in building the latter, but left the works at the Narrows to be constructed by the State. The location of the forts constructed 1808-1816, is well shown on map of New York Harbor, by the U. S. Coast Survey, 1845, in the Association's collection.

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Publications of the Association

I. PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF STATEN ISLAND

These PROCEEDINGS were printed in octavo numbers, partly in leaflet and partly in pamphlet form, from November 10, 1883, to June 3, 1905, and are included in nine volumes, separately indexed.

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Special No. 21, Vol. V, No. 5, March 14, 1896, "Staten Island Names, Ye Olde Names and Nicknames." Wm. T. Davis. Pamph., p. 56, and map by Chas. W. Leng.

Special No. 22, Vol. VII, No. 15, March 10, 1900. "Colonel Francis Lovelace and His Plantations on Staten Island." Edward C. Delavan, Jr. Pamph., p. 33, *pl. 1-4*.

Special No. 23, Vol. VIII, No. 25, October 1903, "Supplement to Staten Island Names, Ye Olde Names and Nicknames." Wm. T. Davis. Pamph., p. 22 and map.

Only a limited number of complete sets of the older volumes is now in stock, and orders for these will be filled in the order of application. The right is reserved to withdraw any part or numbers from sale at any time.

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VOLUME I, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, June 1905-May 1907, p. 1-136, *pl. 1-3*.

VOLUME II, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, October 1907-May 1909, p. 1-251.

VOLUME III, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, October 1909-May 1911, p. 1-216.

VOLUME IV, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, October 1911-May 1913, p. 1-148, *pl. 1, 2*.

Volume V, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, October 1913-May 1915, p. 1-155, *pl. 1-7*.

The Act of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws, etc. (pamph. 8vo, p. i-xxv, 1906) and the special "Memorial Number," issued in commemoration of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island (pamph., 8vo, p. i-xxxvii, 1907), will be sent free on application.

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